

COMMON NIGHTHAWK

Scientific name:	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
Length:	9½ inches
Habitat:	Woodland, farmland, city suburbs
Identification:	Slender, very long-winged bird. Mottled brown-black above, paler beneath with bold dusky barring, white bar across wing near base of primaries, male also has white throat and white tail band
Similar species:	Lesser Nighthawk is paler, has more rounded wings, white wing bar is nearer tip of wing

The Common Nighthawk is found all across North America in summer in a variety of habitats including city suburbs, but not in dry desert areas and tundra. It spends the winter in sub-tropical areas of Mexico and South America. On its breeding grounds it

does not build a nest, but lays its 2 creamy or greenish-gray eggs, which are often densely speckled, directly on the ground or a flat roof. They are incubated by the female bird for around 20 days, but both parents feed the chicks until they are ready to leave about 3 weeks later. The adult is a slender bird with long, pointed wings and a slightly forked tail. The plumage of the male is a mottled brown-black above and whitish or buffy beneath with bold, dusky barring, and it has a bold white bar across the wing at the base of the primaries, a white throat and a white tail band. Birds in the east tend to be browner, while those in the north are grayer. The female lacks the tail band, and both female and juvenile have a buffy throat and wing bar. The Common Nighthawk flies and glides high above the ground, bounding along with fluttery, rather erratic wingbeats, catching insects on the wing. It is common across much of its range, although numbers are declining.

LESSER NIGHTHAWK

Scientific name:	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Scrubland, desert
Identification:	Slender, long-winged bird of dry country. Mottled sandy brown-gray above, buffy beneath with faint barring, whitish bar across wing close to tip, male also has white throat and white tail band
Similar species:	Common Nighthawk is darker, has longer pointed wings, white wing bar is nearer middle of wing

Despite their name, nighthawks are often seen in daylight. The Lesser Nighthawk prefers dry countryside and is seen in the far

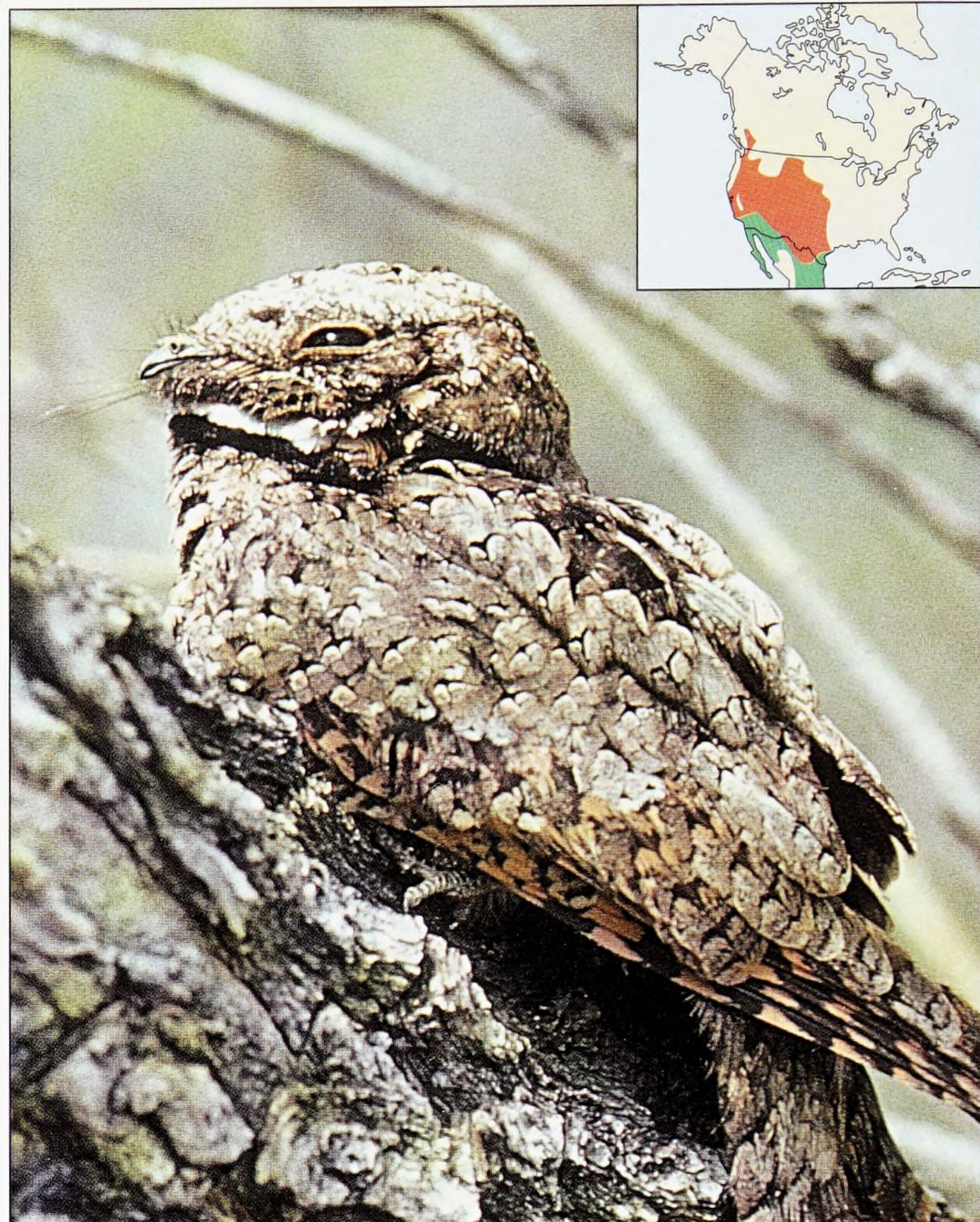
south in summer, and sometimes also in southern California and Texas in winter. Its breeding grounds are across the dry, open scrubland and desert of the south; it does not build a nest but lays its 2 buffy-pink or greenish eggs, often lightly spotted with gray-brown, directly on the ground or a flat roof. They are incubated by the female for up to 3 weeks, but both parents feed the chicks until they are ready to leave around 21 days later. The adult is slender with long wings that are fairly rounded at the tip, and a slightly notched tail. The male is an evenly mottled sandy brown-gray above and buffy beneath with faint barring, and has a whitish bar across the wing close to the tip, a white throat and a white tail band. The female lacks the tail band, and both female and juvenile have a buffy throat and wing bar. The Lesser Nighthawk catches insects in its wide mouth while on the wing.



COMMON POORWILL

Scientific name:	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>
Length:	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Sagebrush, dry foothills, rocky outcrops
Identification:	Small, short-winged nightjar with large head. Mottled gray-brown, white band above black throat, outer tail feathers tipped white
Similar species:	Smaller and grayer than other nightjars

The Common Poorwill is the smallest of the nightjar family and prefers arid country. It is found across much of western North America in summer but retreats to the south and down into Mexico for the winter, although some birds are known to hibernate in the southwest in cold weather. It is rarely seen during the day, but is often spotted at dawn and dusk sitting on back roads or at the roadside. It does not build a nest, but lays 2 pinky-white eggs directly on bare ground. The eggs are incubated by both adults, but the incubation period and details of the fledglings are not known. The adult is a small bird with a large head and short, rounded wings and a rounded tail. Its plumage is mottled gray to gray-brown with a white band above a black throat. The outer tail feathers tipped with white are more evident on the male. The Common Poorwill sits on the ground, flying up with fluttery wingbeats to catch an insect and then settling back down again.



WHIP-POOR-WILL

Scientific name:	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>
Length:	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open coniferous woods, mixed woods, wooded canyons
Identification:	Medium-size, round-winged nightjar with long rounded tail. Mottled gray-brown-black, black throat with white necklace, outer tail feathers of male mostly white, those of female tipped buff
Similar species:	Chuck-will's-widow is larger and redder, with whitish band above black breast

Found mainly in northeast America, the Whip-poor-will prefers mixed woodland and open conifer woods. Some birds spend the winter in southern Florida, others move down into Mexico and further south. If it is discovered during the day it may well appear tame, sitting still when approached and relying on its camouflage for protection. It does not build a nest, but lays 2 whitish eggs with irregular gray or brown spots directly amongst leaves on the forest floor. The eggs are incubated by the female for about 3 weeks, and the young leave about 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult has broadly rounded wings, a long rounded tail and large, dark eyes. Its plumage is mottled gray-brown-black, and it has a black throat with a white necklace. The outer tail feathers of the male are mostly white, while those of the female are tipped with buff. The Whip-poor-will glides at night not far above the ground, with mouth gaping widely to catch beetles, moths and other large insects. Nightjars and nighthawks were once known as goatsuckers, because they swarm round animals at night to feed off the insects surrounding them, which led to a belief that they sucked the milk from goats' udders.



PAURAQUE

Scientific name:	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
Length:	11 inches
Habitat:	Brushland, dense thickets
Identification:	Slim, long-winged bird with long rounded tail. Gray-brown above with line of black spots above wings, paler beneath, chestnut ear patch, bold white bar across wing near tip, male also has white tail patches, female has buffy
Similar species:	Nighthawks have more pointed wings, nightjars may have white in tail but have no white on wing

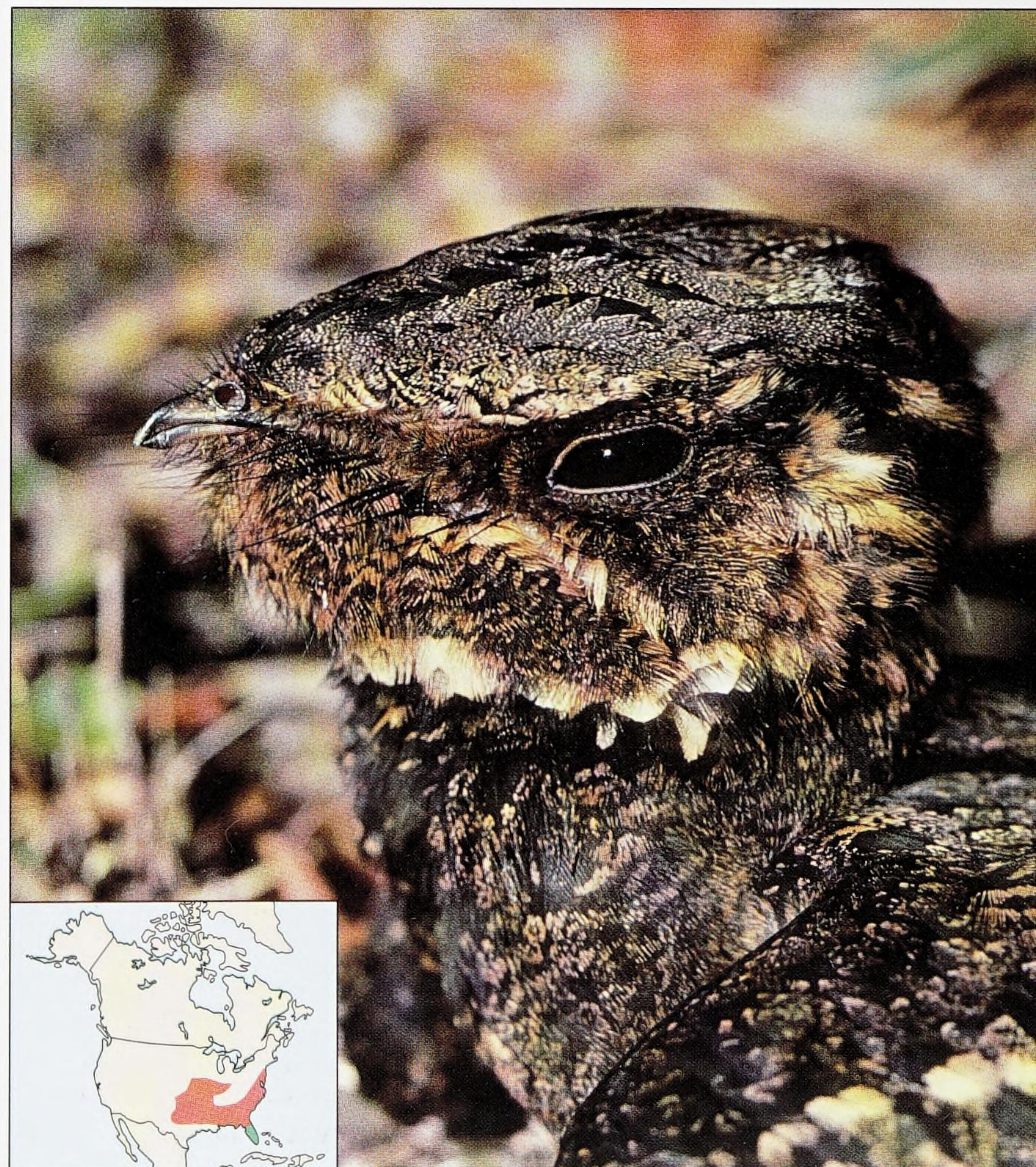
A tropical bird, the Pauraque is found in southern Texas and down into Mexico. It is nocturnal, roosting in dense thicket during daylight hours, so it is usually seen at dawn and dusk, or at night when it is caught in headlights as it sits on back roads. On its breeding grounds it does not build a nest, but lays its 2 pinky-buff eggs, which are often spotted red-brown, directly on the ground in a depression lined with leaves. The incubation period and details of the fledglings are not known. The adult is a slim bird with long, rounded wings and a long rounded tail. The plumage of the male is gray-brown above with a line of black spots above the wing, paler beneath, with a gray crown, chestnut ear patch, and a bold white bar across the wing near the tip. The male also has white patches on the tail, the female has buffy. The Pauraque flies low over the ground, with deep wingbeats and quite bouncing flight, catching insects on the wing.



CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW

Scientific name:	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>
Length:	12 inches
Habitat:	Oak and pine woods
Identification:	Large, long-winged nightjar with long rounded tail. Mottled reddish buffy-brown, whitish band above black breast, outer tail feathers white centers and tipped buff
Similar species:	Whip-poor-will is smaller and grayer, with dark throat and white or buffy necklace

Chuck-will's-widow is the largest of the nightjar family and prefers woodland. It is found across much of southeastern North America in summer and a few birds stay all year in southern Florida. It is rarely seen during the day - its plumage provides excellent camouflage, it lurks in thick woodland and flies away if approached - but it can be spotted at dawn and dusk sitting low in trees along the roadside. It does not build a nest, but lays 2 pinky-buff eggs with lilac or brown spots directly amongst leaves on the ground. The eggs are incubated by the female for about 3 weeks, and the young leave about 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult has long wings with a rounded point and a longish rounded tail. Its plumage is a mottled reddish buffy-brown, with a whitish band above a black breast. The outer tail feathers of the male have white centers and are tipped with buff. Chuck-will's-widow glides strongly through the air, with mouth gaping widely to catch beetles, moths and other large insects.



CHIMNEY SWIFT

Scientific name:	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Urban areas, woodland
Identification:	Small, short-tailed bird with slim body and long, narrow, curved wings. Sooty brown overall with paler throat
Similar species:	Vaux's Swift is slightly smaller, usually paler on breast and rump

The Chimney Swift has often been described as looking like a "cigar on wings" and is found all over eastern America in summer, but migrates to the rainforests of South America to spend the winter. It flies fast with quick wingbeats, or sails with wings held stiff. It previously nested in a hole or hollow of a tree, but now builds a half-cup of twigs glued together with saliva inside a chimney or barn, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs. These are incubated for up to 3 weeks by both adult birds, and the young leave the nest around 4 weeks after they have hatched. The adult bird is small, with a short, stubby tail, a slim body and long, narrow, curved wings. Its plumage is sooty brown overall, with a paler throat. The Chimney Swift does not perch but clings to a vertical surface when roosting at night. During the day it is always on the wing, sweeping through the air to catch insects.



WHITE-THROATED SWIFT

Scientific name:	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>
Length:	6½ inches
Habitat:	Mountains, canyons, cliffs
Identification:	Slender, long-winged bird with long, notched tail. Black overall with white throat and belly, white sides on rump and on trailing edge of wings at base
Similar species:	Only swift with white patches. Violet-green Swallow is similar, but has shorter wings, slower flight and is all white beneath

The White-throated Swift is most often seen near cliffs and canyons, often in large flocks, and is sometimes known as a rock swift. It migrates south in winter, but some birds remain in the southwest all year round. It nests in cliff crevices in colonies, building a half-cup of grass and feathers glued together with saliva, in which it lays 3-6 white eggs. Its incubation habits and nestling periods are uncertain. The adult bird is a slender, long-winged bird with a long, notched tail, which it sometimes holds closed and pointed in flight. Its plumage is black overall with a white throat and belly, and white sides on the rump and the trailing edge of the wings at the base. The White-throated Swift is one of the fastest American birds, with an estimated top speed of 200 miles per hour. It flies with very quick wingbeats followed by a stiff-winged glide, as it sweeps through the air to catch insects.



VAUX'S SWIFT

Scientific name:	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodlands near water
Identification:	Small, short-tailed bird with slim body and long, narrow, curved wings. Sooty brown overall with paler chest and rump
Similar species:	The Chimney Swift is slightly larger and generally darker

The west coast equivalent of the Chimney Swift, Vaux's Swift is found in northwest America in summer, but migrates to Central and South America to spend the winter. It nests inside a hollow tree,

or sometimes in a chimney, building a half-cup of twigs glued together with saliva and fixed to the vertical surface, to which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs. These are incubated for up to 3 weeks by both adult birds, and the young leave the nest around 4 weeks after they have hatched. The adult bird is small, with a short, stubby tail, a slim body and long, narrow, curved wings. Its plumage is sooty brown overall, with a paler chest and rump. Like the Chimney Swift, Vaux's Swift does not perch; in both species the tail feathers end with a hard shaft that offers more support to the bird when it is clinging to a vertical surface while roosting at night. Vaux's Swift flies fast with spurts of very quick wingbeats, followed by glides with wings held stiff, as it sweeps through the air to catch insects. Its population is declining, since its mature forest habitat is gradually being destroyed.



BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name: *Lampornis clemenciae*
Length: 5 inches
Habitat: Streams in mountain canyons
Identification: Large, broad-tailed hummingbird. Male metallic green above, gray below with bright blue gorget, blue-black tail with white corners to outer feathers. Female green above, gray below, white tips to outer tail feathers. Both have white stripe above and below eye
Similar species: Female Magnificent Hummingbird similar to female Blue-throated, but is more mottled beneath and has smaller white corners to tail

The biggest of the hummers seen in America, the Blue-throated Hummingbird prefers shady, wooded canyons and is fairly common within its range. Its nest is a tiny, beautifully constructed cup of plants with moss woven into the walls, fixed to a plant stalk or vine, or on an electric wire, usually near or over water. It must be sheltered from rain and sun, and once it has found a suitable site the bird returns to the same spot year after year. The nest holds 2 white eggs, which are incubated by the female, with the young birds leaving around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult has a broad tail, which it sometimes holds fanned. The plumage of the male is metallic green above and gray below with a bright blue gorget, and it has a blue-black tail with white corners to the outer feathers. The female is green above and gray below, with white tips to the outer tail feathers. Both have a white stripe above and below the eye. The Blue-throated Hummingbird feeds on nectar and pollen from flowers and also catches small insects.





MAGNIFICENT HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Eugenes fulgens</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	High mountain meadows and canyons, open woods
Identification:	Large, slender, long-billed hummingbird. Male green above with purple crown, breast and upper belly black with metallic green gorget, dark green deeply notched tail. Female duller, lacks purple crown, squarish tail, white-gray tips to outer tail feathers
Similar species:	Female Blue-throated Hummingbird similar to female Magnificent, but has white eye stripes and larger white tips to tail

The second-largest American hummer, the Magnificent Hummingbird is found in high mountain meadows and canyons and is fairly common within its range. Its nest is a small cup of plants with lichens woven into the walls, fixed to a horizontal branch high above the ground. It holds 2 white eggs, but incubation habits and nestling periods are not known. The adult is slender, with a particularly long, thin bill. The plumage of the male is green above with a purple crown and a white spot behind the eye; it has a black breast and upper belly with a metallic green gorget. Its lower belly is dull brown and it has a dark green deeply notched tail. The female is duller with mottled gray-green sides and lacks the purple crown; it has a squarish tail with small white-gray tips to the outer tail feathers. In flight, the Magnificent Hummingbird sometimes skims along rather like a swift. It feeds on nectar and pollen from flowers and also catches small insects.





BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (left)

Scientific name:	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Woodland borders
Identification:	Large, long-bodied hummingbird. Metallic green above, including head and throat, buffy lower breast and belly, rufous tail, red bill with black tip
Similar species:	Berylline Hummingbird is also green with a red tail, but is a Mexican species that rarely comes up into North America

Although it is a Mexican species, the Buff-bellied Hummingbird appeared in Texas at the end of the 1870s and has been fairly common in the far south until a few years ago. It is now only found in a limited area along the Rio Grande during the summer, with most birds returning to Mexico in the winter - although a few are seen around the northern Gulf coast and into Florida. Its nest is a tiny cup of plant down, fibers and lichen, decorated with pieces of bark and lichen and firmly attached to the branch of a tree up to 8 feet above the ground. It usually holds 2 white eggs, but details of the incubation and nestling periods are not currently known. The adult is long-bodied, and has a long, slightly down-curved red-pink bill with a black tip. Its plumage is metallic green above, including the head and throat, and it has a buffy lower breast and belly and a rufous tail. Both male and female have the same coloring and they are easy to distinguish from most other hummingbirds because of their red tails. The Buff-bellied Hummingbird feeds on the nectar and pollen from flowers and also sometimes eats the small insects on the petals.

VIOLET-CROWNED HUMMINGBIRD (above)

Scientific name:	<i>Amazilia violiceps</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Streams, sycamore woods in lower mountain canyons
Identification:	Large, long-bodied hummingbird. Bronze above, white below including throat, violet-blue crown, red bill with dark tip
Similar species:	No other hummingbird with similar coloring

Although the Violet-crowned Hummingbird is only found in a limited area in the south and is fairly uncommon, it is conspicuous when it is seen and is aggressive towards other hummers. It usually breeds outside America, but some birds have nested in Arizona and New Mexico. Its downy and lichen-covered nest is built on the horizontal branch of a tree and holds 2 white eggs, which are incubated by the female for 2-3 weeks, with the young birds leaving around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is long-bodied, and has a long, slightly down-curved red bill with a dark tip. Its plumage is bronze above and white below - including the throat - and it has a violet-blue crown. Unlike many hummingbirds, both male and female are the same. The Violet-crowned Hummingbird feeds on nectar from flowers and has also been seen at feeders, sometimes coming throughout the winter. The suspended flight of a hummingbird requires around 54 wingbeats per second, while their normal, darting flight requires 75 wingbeats per second - which causes the distinctive humming sound that gives them their name. They have been recorded flying at speeds up to 50 mph.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>
Length:	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodland in lowlands and foothills
Identification:	Small hummingbird, long, straight, thin bill. Bright green back, white underparts. Male has black face and chin
Similar species:	Male unmistakable in good light because of the purple gorget, but female very similar to other female hummingbirds

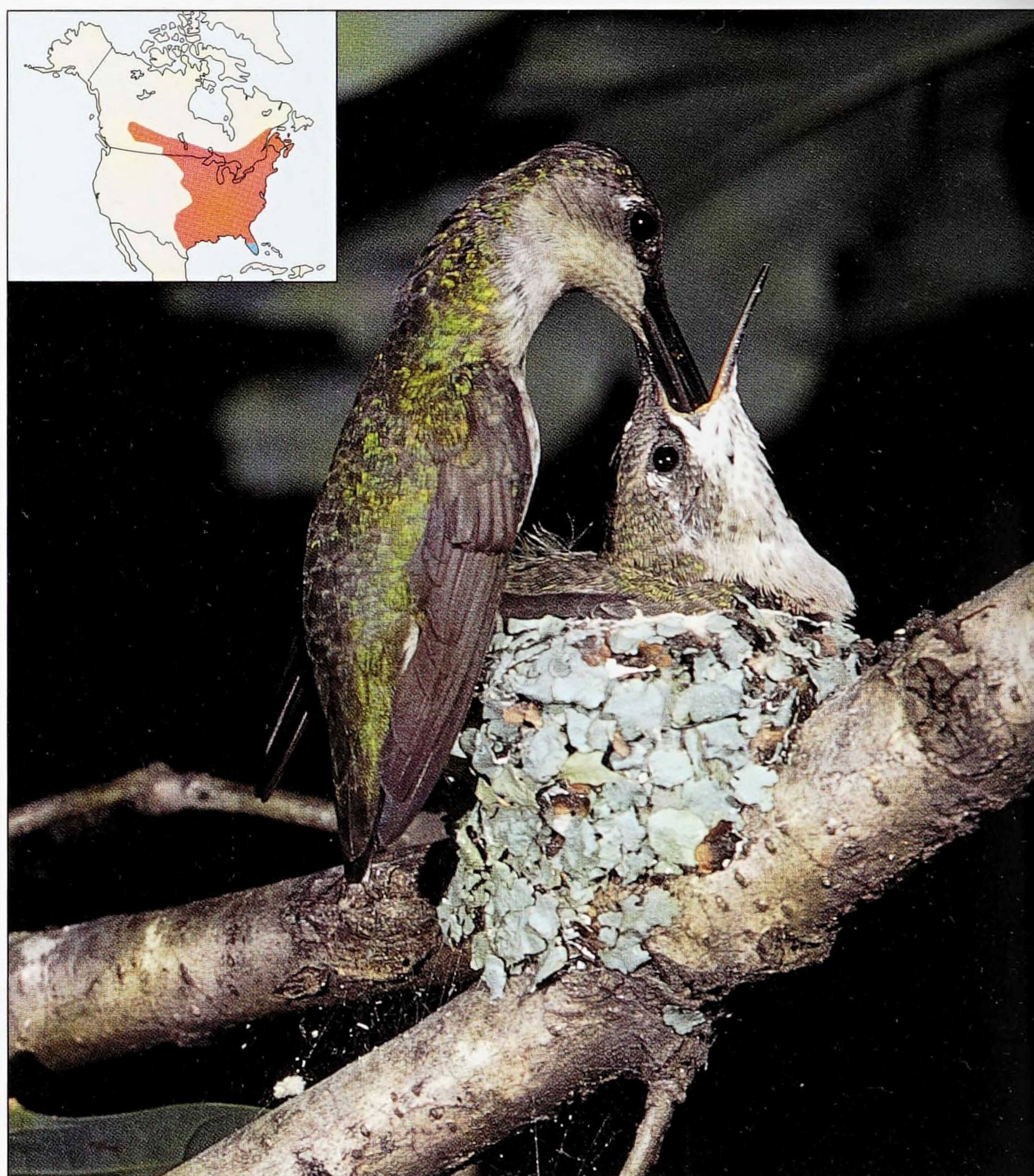
The Black-chinned Hummingbird breeds in lowlands and low mountains across western America, where it is quite common in spring and summer. It often builds its nest in vulnerable places, where it can easily be seen by predators, but both mother and nestlings are very quiet - the baby birds do not call for food as those of many other species do. The clutch consists of 2 eggs, which take 13-16 days to incubate. The nestlings take a further 3 weeks to fledge and the female continues to look after the young birds while they are learning to fly, hover and forage. The adult male has a black face, chin and upper throat, a metallic green back and an entirely dark tail. In a very good light, an iridescent purple-violet gorget can be seen at the lower throat. The female (*right*) and immature bird both have a white chin and throat, with variable dark streaking, and a dark tail with white tips to the outer tail feathers. The Black-chinned Hummingbird feeds on nectar and a variety of small insects. It normally winters outside North America, although a few only go as far as the northern Gulf coast or winter in the southeast.

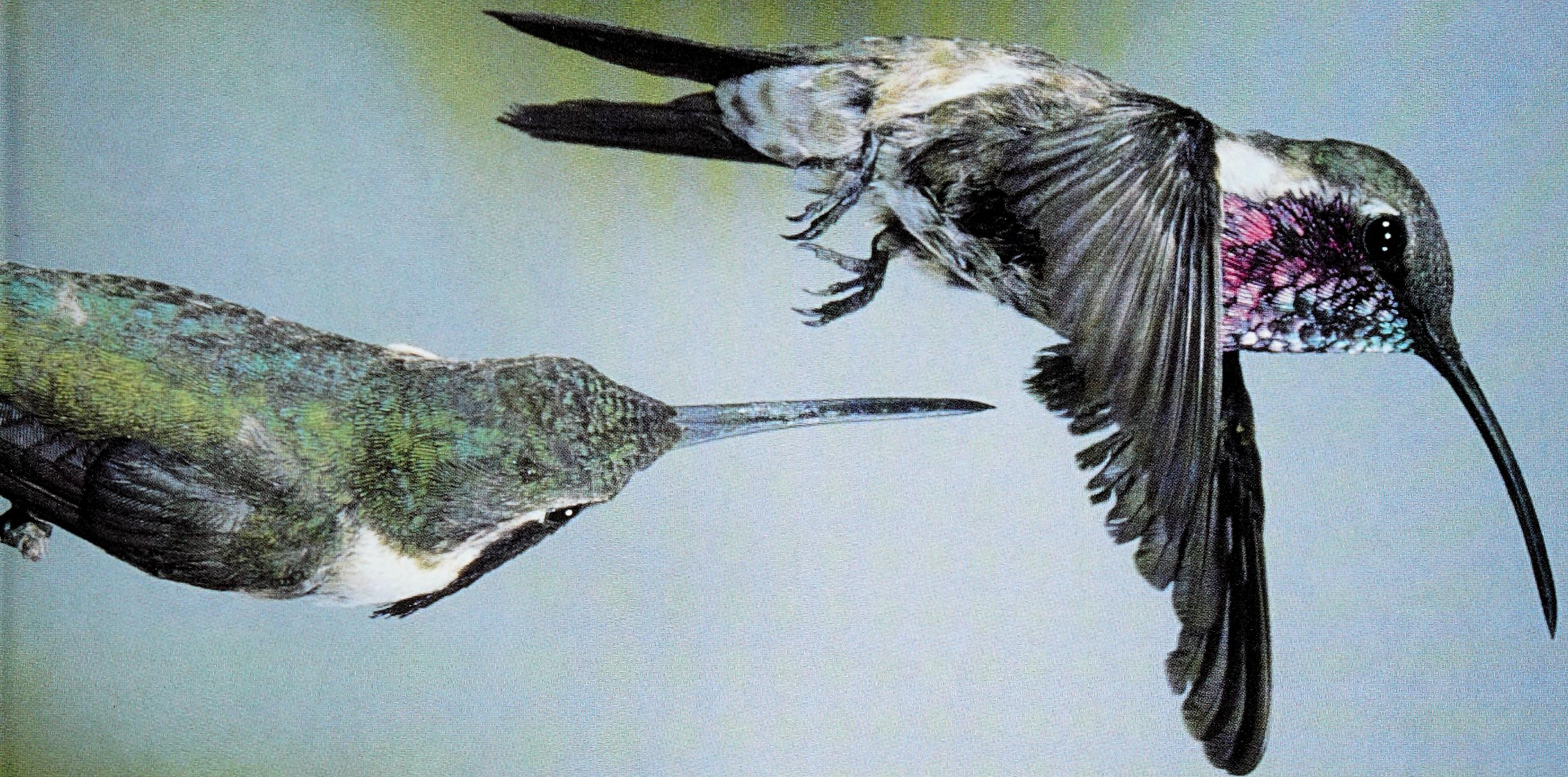


RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>
Length:	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Gardens, woodland edges
Identification:	Small hummingbird, with long, straight, thin bill. Bright green back, white underparts. Male has black face and chin and iridescent scarlet gorget
Similar species:	Male Broad-tailed Hummingbird is similar to male Ruby-throated, but has rose-red throat rather than ruby. Female very similar to other female humming birds

The Ruby-throated is the only hummingbird regularly seen in the east. They are anti-social birds, so they only pair to mate; the female builds a tiny nest of spiders' webs and plant down, often near water, where she incubates 2 white eggs for 11-14 days. The young take 14-28 days to fledge and she rears 2-3 clutches alone. The male defends the breeding area and nectar resources with stylized displays; the female defends the nest in the breeding season, but also defends the nectar resources at other times. The adult male has a black face and chin, an iridescent ruby or scarlet gorget at the throat, a metallic green back and an entirely dark, forked tail. The female (*right*) and immature bird both have a white chin and throat, with variable thin dark streaking and a dark, shallow-forked tail with white tips to the outer tail feathers. Despite its tiny size, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird migrates across the Gulf of Mexico to winter in Central America. Red tubular flowers are a particularly favorite source of food, but it also eats tiny flying insects and small spiders.





LUCIFER HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Calothorax lucifer</i>
Length:	3½ inches
Habitat:	Desert, lower mountain canyons
Identification:	Small, large-headed hummingbird with long decurved bill and deeply-notched tail. Male iridescent green above with green crown and purple gorget, white below, buff on flanks. Female similar but buff below and lacks forked tail
Similar species:	Several other hummingbirds have a slightly decurved bill. Costa's Hummingbird has similar gorget, but also purple on forehead, rounded tail and lacks decurved bill

The tiny Lucifer Hummingbird is a Mexican hummer that is rather uncommon in America, found only in the desert areas of southeast

Arizona, southwest New Mexico and western Texas. Its nest is a small cup of downy plant fibers with cobwebs and lichens woven into the walls, situated near the ground in vegetation. It holds 2 white eggs, but incubation habits and nestling periods are not known. The adult is tiny, with a relatively large head and a long, distinctly decurved bill. The plumage of the male (*above*) is iridescent green on its upperparts, with a green crown and purple gorget, and white below with buff on the flanks, and it has a black, deeply-notched tail. The female is similar but warm buff below, with a whitish belly, and a rounded tail with the outer feathers rufous at the base and tipped with white. The outer tail feathers of the male are narrow and stiff and create a loud hum when it is displaying in the air. The Lucifer Hummingbird feeds on nectar and pollen from flowers and also catches small insects. The metabolism of hummers is very rapid, so birds must feed every 10-15 minutes on nectar and flying insects.



RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name: *Selasphorus rufus*

Length: 3 ³/₄ inches

Habitat: Woodlands

Identification: Small, compact hummingbird, with rather short wings. Male rufous above and on sides, with bright orange-red gorget and white breast. Female green above, with rufous on sides, white beneath with orange-red spotted throat patch, outer tail feathers rufous at base, black in middle and white at tip

Similar species: Male distinctive. Juvenile similar to juvenile male Allen's Hummingbird. Female is similar to female Broad-tailed, but has shorter tail and reddish throat patch, and also to female Allen's but has less rufous in tail

Although it is mainly found along the north Pacific coast in summer, the Rufous Hummingbird is also sometimes seen over much of the east in fall, as it migrates south. Some birds stay along the Gulf coast in winter, but most fly on to southern Mexico. Its nest is a carefully woven cup of plant down, decorated with moss and lichen, fastened to a horizontal branch, in which the female incubates 2 white eggs. The young leave the nest around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, compact hummer, with rather short wings. The male is rufous above and on the sides, with a bright orange-red gorget and a white breast. The female (*above*) has a green back with rufous on the sides, white beneath with a small orange-red spotted throat patch, and has outer tail feathers that are heavily rufous at the base, black in the middle and white at the tip. The juvenile is similar to the female. In flight, the male may produce a whistling buzz with its wings. Both male and female defend their territory and nectar sources; they also eat tiny flying insects and running tree sap.

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD

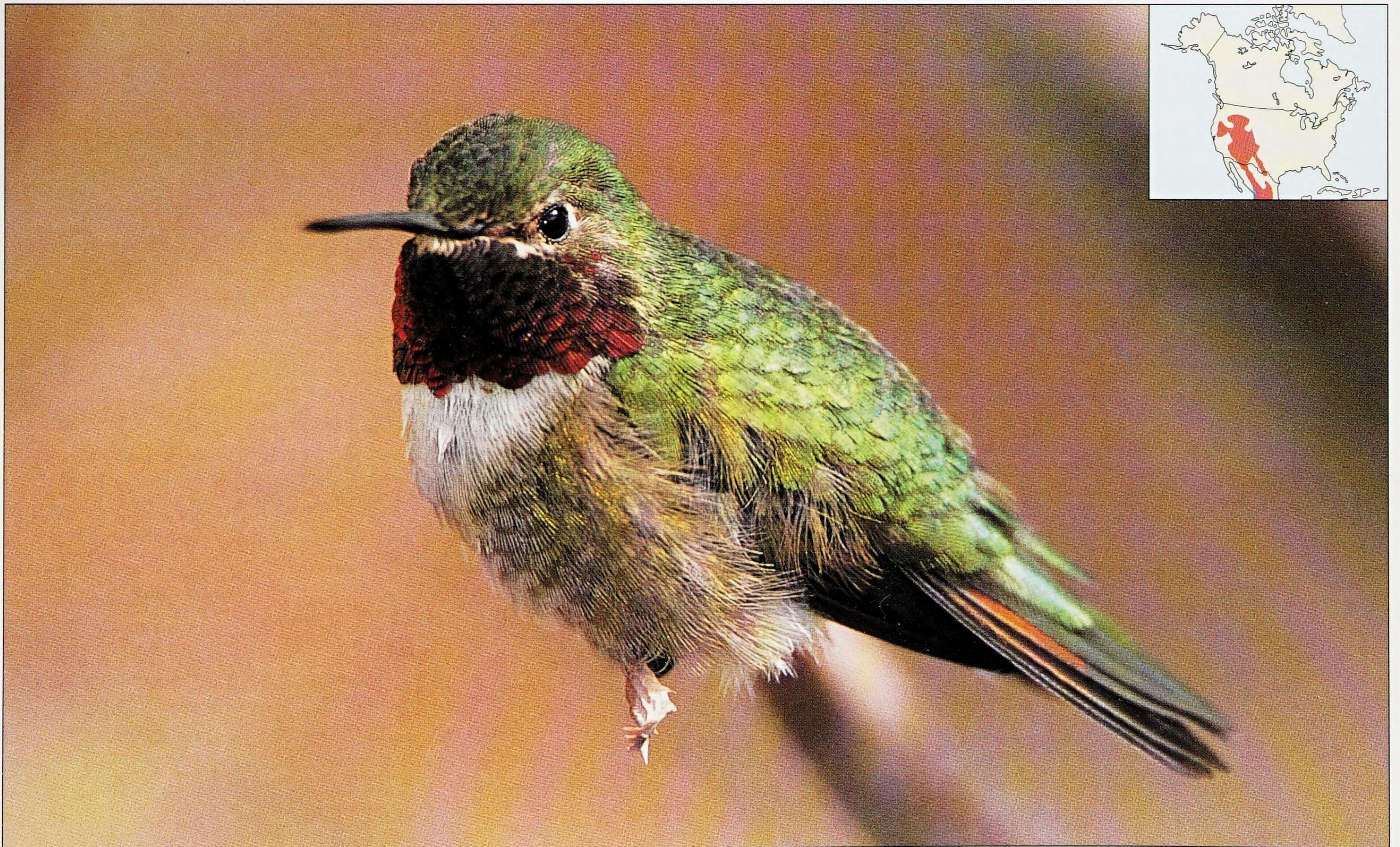
Scientific name:	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>
Length:	3½ inches
Habitat:	Open woods, suburbs
Identification:	Small hummingbird, with short wings and a long bill. Male iridescent green crown and back, rufous rump and below, bright copper-red gorget and white breast. Female green above, with rufous sides, white beneath with small orange-red spotted throat patch, outer tail feathers rufous base, black middle and white tip
Similar species:	Male distinguished from male Rufous by green on back. Juvenile similar to juvenile male Allen's. Female similar to female Broad-tailed, but has shorter tail, reddish throat patch, also to female Allen's but has more rufous in tail

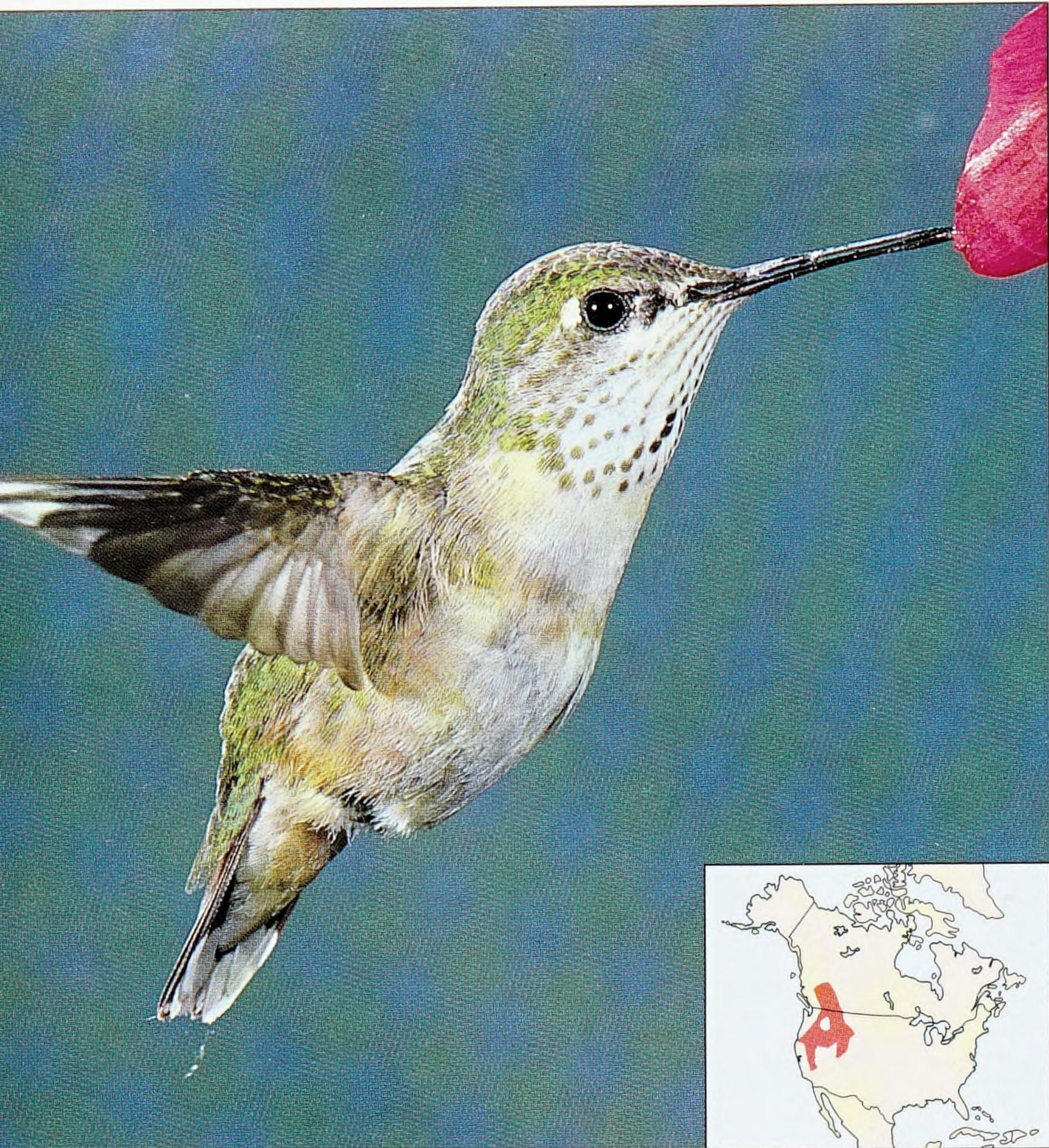
Common in North America within its rather limited summer range, Allen's Hummingbird is also seen in the southwest during winter and fall as it migrates; some birds stay all year round on the islands off the California coast. Its nest is a tightly woven cup of plant down and stems, decorated with lichen and fastened to a sheltered branch, in which the female incubates 2 white eggs for 2-3 weeks. The adult is small, with rather short wings and relatively long bill. The male has an iridescent green crown and back, rufous on the rump and below, a bright copper-red gorget and a white breast. The female is green above, with rufous on the sides, white beneath with a small orange-red spotted throat patch, and outer tail feathers heavily rufous at the base, black in the middle and white at the tip. Like the Rufous, the male Allen's produces a whistling buzz with its wings in flight.

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (below)

Scientific name:	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>
Length:	4 inches
Habitat:	Mountain meadows
Identification:	Medium-size hummingbird, with long body and long broad tail. Metallic green above, white underparts. Male has rose-red gorget. Female is buffy beneath with spotted cheeks, outer tail feathers rufous at base, black in middle and white at tip
Similar species:	Male could be confused with male Ruby-throated, but lacks black face and chin, little overlap in range. Also similar to juvenile male Anna's Hummingbird. Female similar to female Rufous and Allen's hummingbirds, but has longer, broader tail with less rufous, lacks reddish throat patch

In summer, the Broad-tailed Hummingbird is fairly common across western America, but it winters in South America. It is often heard before it is seen, its wings making a loud metallic hum as it flies. Its nest is a woven cup of plant down, lichen and spider web, fastened to a horizontal branch, in which the female incubates 2 white eggs for about 15-17 days. The young take around 3 weeks to fledge. The adult has a long body and a long, broad tail, metallic green plumage above and white beneath; the male (*below*) has a rose-red gorget and greenish sides. The female is buffy beneath with spotted cheeks, the outer tail feathers are rufous at the base, black in the middle and white at the tip. Red flowers are a favourite source of nectar for the Broad-tailed Hummingbird; it also eats spiders and flying insects.





CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD

- Scientific name:** *Stellula calliope*
Length: 3¼ inches
Habitat: Mountain meadows
Identification: Tiny, short-tailed hummingbird, with short thin bill. Male metallic green above, white gorget with purple-violet streaks, whitish breast. Female green above, white beneath with dark streaks on throat, buff on flanks, outer tail feathers white at tip
Similar species: Streaked throat of male distinctive. Juvenile similar to juvenile Allen's and Broad-tailed hummingbirds. Female is similar to female Rufous and Broad-tailed, but is smaller with less rufous in tail

The smallest North American bird, the Calliope Hummingbird is common in mountain meadows across the northwest in summer and migrates across the southwest to winter in Mexico. Its nest is a small cup of moss and lichen, decorated with spider web, fastened to a sheltered branch on a bush or small tree. The female lays 2 white eggs, which are incubated for just over 2 weeks. The young leave the nest around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a tiny, short-tailed hummer, with a short, thin bill. The male is metallic green above, with a white gorget with purple-violet streaks, and a whitish breast. The female is green above, white beneath with dark streaks on the throat, and has buff on its flanks and outer tail feathers tipped with white. The juvenile is similar to the female, but has some red on the throat by the end of the summer. The Calliope Hummingbird feeds on nectar, small insects and spiders.



ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD

- Scientific name:** *Calypte anna*
Length: 4 inches
Habitat: Coastal lowlands, mountains, deserts
Identification: Medium-size, stocky hummingbird with tubular body and short straight bill. Adult birds metallic green above. Male rose-red crown and gorget, grayish-green chest. Female spotted throat with red central patch, whitish gray-green underparts, white-tipped outer tail feathers
Similar species: Juvenile lacks red on throat and could be confused with female of several other hummers. Female very similar to other female hummingbirds

Found all year round along the Pacific coast, Anna's Hummingbird is common in woodlands, along streams and also in suburban gardens. Its nest is a tiny cup of woven twigs and lichens, fixed to a sheltered horizontal branch. It holds 2 white eggs, which are incubated by the female for 2-3 weeks; the young birds leave the nest about 26 days after hatching. The adult is a medium-size, sturdy hummer, with a rather tubular body and short straight bill. Both adults are metallic green above; the male has a distinctive rose-red crown and gorget, and a grayish-green chest. The female has a spotted throat, with red spots in the center forming a patch of color, whitish gray-green underparts, and white-tipped outer tail feathers. The juvenile is similar to the female adult, but usually has an unmarked throat. Anna's Hummingbird tends to hold its tail still and in line with its body when hovering. It feeds on nectar and small insects, and frequently comes to feeders in suburban gardens. Like other hummingbirds, it defends its feeding territory against interlopers.



COSTA'S HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Calypte costae</i>
Length:	3½ inches
Habitat:	Desert, dry country
Identification:	Small, short-tailed hummingbird with round head and short thick neck. Adult birds metallic green above. Male violet-purple crown and gorget extending down sides of neck, whitish-green chest. Female white throat and breast, greeny-buff on sides, white-tipped outer tail feathers
Similar species:	Female very similar to other female hummingbirds. Costa's Hummingbird prefers arid country, which is a useful indicator

Costa's Hummingbird is found in arid, desert areas, and is fairly common in southern California, Arizona and Nevada. Its nest is a woven cup decorated with leaves and lichens, fixed low down on a branch or yucca stalk. It holds 2 white eggs, which are incubated by the female for 14-17 days; the young birds leave the nest about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, short-tailed hummer, with a round head, a short thick neck and a metallic green back; the male (*above*) has a whitish-green chest and a rich violet-purple crown and gorget, extending down each side of the neck, which may appear black in some lights. The female has a white throat and breast, greeny-buff on sides, and white-tipped outer tail feathers. Costa's Hummingbird feeds on nectar and small insects, and is particularly fond of red beardtongue. Unlike other hummers, it tends to soar as it moves from one cluster of flowers to the next.



BROAD-BILLED HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>
Length:	4 inches
Habitat:	Desert canyons, low mountain woodlands
Identification:	Medium-size, stocky hummingbird, with broad tail. Male dark green above and below, with bright metallic-blue gorget, mostly red bill, white undertail coverts, blue-black notched tail. Female duller green above, gray beneath, white eye stripe, red bill, square tail with white at tip of outer feathers
Similar species:	Forked tail and lack of white ear stripe distinguish male from male White-eared. Plain gray underparts distinguish female from female White-eared, and red bill from other female hummers

The Broad-billed Hummingbird is a Mexican species that is mainly seen in North America in southern Arizona, where it is often quite common during the summer. Its nest is a rather loosely-woven, rough cup of plant stems, fastened to a branch of a tree near a stream, in which the female incubates 2 white eggs. The adult is a medium-size, stocky hummer, with a broad tail and a long, red-orange, slightly decurved bill. The male (*above*) is dark green both above and below, with a bright metallic-blue gorget, a blue-black notched tail and white undertail coverts. The female is duller green above and gray beneath, with a white eye stripe, and a square-ended tail with white at the tip of the outer feathers. The Broad-billed Hummingbird is less active than many other hummers - it will often sit on a perch for quite long periods of time. It flies in a rather irregular, jerky way and flicks its tail while hovering. Like other hummingbirds, its favorite food is the nectar sucked from flowers with its long bill, but it will also eat tiny flying insects and small spiders.

WHITE-EARED HUMMINGBIRD

Scientific name: *Hylocharis leucotis*

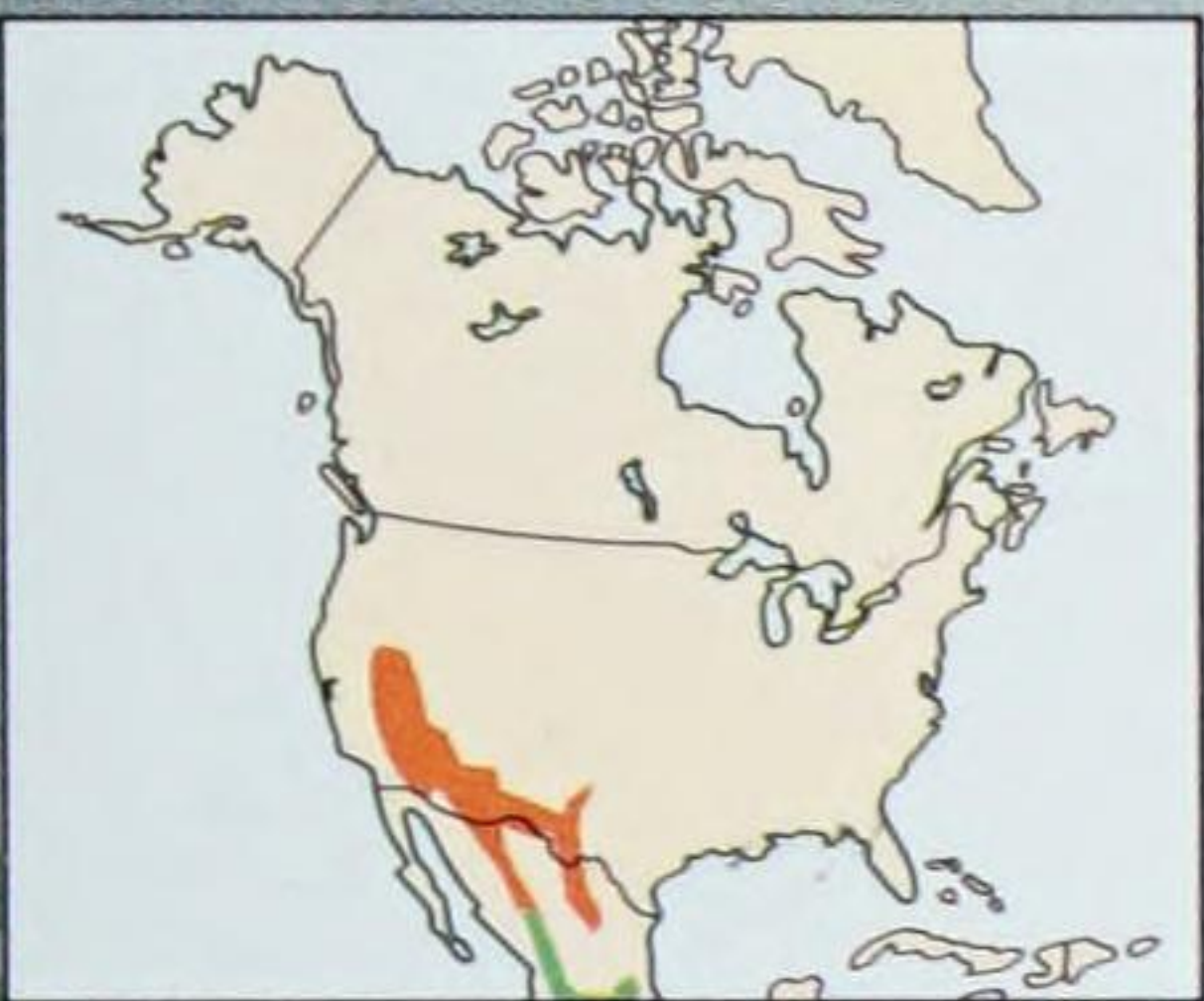
Length: 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches

Habitat: Mountain coniferous forest, canyons

Identification: Small, stocky hummingbird, with broad square tail, broad white ear stripe and red bill tipped black. Male dark green above and below, with bright purple-blue crown and chin, emerald-green gorget, white undertail coverts. Female green above, whitish beneath with green spotting and barring on throat and sides, white at tip of outer tail feathers

Similar species: Male Broad-billed has forked tail and no white ear stripe and longer bill. Female Broad-billed has plain gray underparts. Red bill distinguishes female White-eared from other female hummers

A Mexican and South American species that is mainly seen in North America in southeastern Arizona during the summer, the White-eared Hummingbird is fairly rare. Although their ranges overlap, the White-eared prefers to live at rather higher elevations than the Broad-billed. As the breeding season arrives, several males gather in one area and the female visits to choose a mate to take back to her nest. The nest is made of moss interwoven with lichens and twigs or conifer needles and fastened to a branch, in which the female incubates 2 white eggs. The adult is a small, stocky hummer, with a broad square tail, a broad white ear stripe and a long, straight, red bill tipped with black. The male (*below*) is dark green above and below, with a purple-blue crown and chin, an emerald-green gorget, and white undertail coverts. The female is green above, whitish beneath with green spotting and barring on the throat and sides, and has white at the tip of the outer tail feathers. The White-eared Hummingbird lives mainly on the nectar from flowers but will also eat small flying insects and tiny spiders.





GREEN VIOLET-EAR *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Colibri thalassinus</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Mountain woodlands
Identification:	Small tropical hummingbird, curved bill, metallic green overall, blue-green tail with darker band, blue-green wing linings. Male has blue-violet ear patch and breast
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

The Green Violet-ear is very common in the tropics but is usually only seen in North America in the hilly regions of Texas and in some areas of the east - although it has been recorded as far north as Canada. It has not so far been known to nest in North America, although this may be just because a nest has not yet been discovered. The adult is a small, brightly-colored bird, with a curved dark bill, and both male and female have similar plumage: vivid metallic green overall, with a broad, rounded, blue-green tail crossed by a darker band just above the tip, buffy undertail coverts and blue-green wing linings. The male has a blue-violet ear patch and breast. The juvenile bird is very similar, but tends to be slightly duller, with more gray on the belly. Like other hummingbirds, the Green Violet-ear eats the nectar and pollen from flowers and small insects - it has also been known to visit hummingbird feeders.

ELEGANT TROGON *(right)*

Scientific name:	<i>Trogon elegans</i>
Length:	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Habitat:	Mountain woodlands near streams
Identification:	Medium-size tropical bird, with short broad yellow bill. White breast band, barred tail, red belly running down under tail. Male bright green above, female much duller
Similar species:	Elegant Trogon is unmistakable - Eared Trogon is similar, but lacks white breast band, has mainly white undersurface to the tail and is only rarely seen in North America

In North America, these brightly colored tropical birds are mainly restricted to southeastern Arizona, although a few have been seen in southern Texas. They prefer to live in woods at high altitudes near streams, and they remain in roughly the same area all year round. Their nests are built in cavities and they raise a clutch of 3-4 eggs. The adult male is bright green above, with a bright red belly, white breast band and a short, broad, yellow bill. The tail feathers are green above and white beneath with delicate barring and are tipped with black. The female and the immature bird are both similar to the male in coloring, but are browner and duller. Their diet mainly consists of fruit and small insects. The song of both male and female is a series of croaking *co-ah* notes.



RINGED KINGFISHER

Scientific name:	<i>Ceryle torquata</i>
Length:	16 inches
Habitat:	Large rivers, lakes
Identification:	Large kingfisher with ragged crest and stout dark-tipped bill. Blue-gray above and on head, white collar. Male is rust-red beneath with white undertail coverts. Female has blue-gray breast, white band, rust-red belly and undertail coverts, rust-red on underwing
Similar species:	Male unmistakable. Female Belted Kingfisher similar general coloring but smaller and only has rust belly band, white under wing

The largest kingfisher in North America, the Ringed Kingfisher has extended its range north from Mexico and now inhabits the lower Rio Grande Valley, although it is also sometimes seen elsewhere in Texas. It is usually found near large areas of water. It does not build a nest, but digs a long tunnel in the side of a steep river bank, and lays its 4-5 white eggs on bare soil at the end. Details of its incubation habits and nestling periods are not currently known. The adult is much larger than the Belted Kingfisher, with a ragged crest and a stout dark-tipped bill. Its plumage is blue-gray above and on the head, with a white collar. The male is rust-red beneath with white undertail coverts, and the female has a white band between the blue-gray breast and rust-red belly and undertail coverts. In flight, the female shows rust-red under the wing, with blue-gray along the trailing edge - the male has white underwing coverts. The Ringed Kingfisher perches high up above lakes and rivers and dives for fish and frogs.



GREEN KINGFISHER

Scientific name:	<i>Chloroceryle americana</i>
Length:	8 3/4 inches
Habitat:	Narrow streams
Identification:	Small kingfisher with small crest and large bill. Dark metallic-green above and on head, white collar, white belly, flanks spotted green, wings speckled white. Male has broad red breast band. Female has green spotting across breast forming a band
Similar species:	Both male and female are unmistakable

A mainly tropical bird, the Green Kingfisher is only found in North America in southern Texas, with a few birds resident in Arizona and New Mexico. It is a fairly uncommon bird and not easy to see, lurking in the shaded edges of woodland pools and narrow streams. It does not build a nest, but digs a tunnel around 3 feet long in the side of a steep bank and lays its 4-6 white eggs on bare soil at the end. The eggs are incubated for around 3 weeks and the young birds leave the burrow after about 4 weeks when they are fully fledged. The adult is small, with an insignificant crest and a long, pointed bill. Its plumage is dark metallic-green above and on the head, with a white collar and white belly; its flanks are spotted green and wings speckled white. The male has a broad red breast band, while the female has green spotting across the breast forming a band. In flight, both male and female show mainly white under the wing and white outer tail feathers. The Green Kingfisher sits low down near the water, wagging its tail up and down, until it swiftly plunges into the depths to catch a small fish.



BELTED KINGFISHER

Scientific name:	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>
Length:	13 inches
Habitat:	Rivers, streams, ponds and lakes, estuaries
Identification:	Medium-size kingfisher with shaggy crest and heavy bill. Blue-gray above and on head, white collar. Male has blue-gray breast band and white belly. Female has blue-gray breast band, and rust-red belly band across white belly
Similar species:	Male unmistakable. Female Ringed Kingfisher similar general coloring but larger and has all-rust belly, and rust-red under wing

The only kingfisher found across most of North America, the Belted Kingfisher is common and single birds are easily spotted near

woodland water. It is a solitary bird, defending its fishing territory and only associating with others of its kind in the breeding season. It does not build a nest, but digs a tunnel up to 7 feet long in the side of a steep river bank, and lays its 5-8 white eggs on the bare soil at the end. The eggs are incubated for around 3-4 weeks and the young birds leave the burrow after about 7 weeks when they are fully fledged. The adult is medium size, with a shaggy crest and a heavy bill. Its plumage is blue-gray above and on the head, with a white collar. The male has a blue-gray breast band and white belly, and the female has a has a blue-gray breast band and a white belly with a rust-red belly band. In flight, both male and female have white under the wing, with blue-gray along the trailing edge. When flying between perches, it often gives a loud, harsh, rattling call. The Belted Kingfisher perches on a branch over a lake or river until it spots a fish, then hovers over the water before diving for its catch. It also eats frogs, tadpoles and insects.





ACORN WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
Length:	9 inches
Habitat:	Oak woods
Identification:	Medium-size woodpecker. Red crown, black nape, back, wings and tail, yellow-white forehead and throat, white belly with heavy dark streaking on breast and flanks, white rump and wing patches, dark eyes with white eye ring. Female has black bar between crown and forehead
Similar species:	At a distance, sometimes mistaken for male White-headed Woodpecker, which has more white on head and large white wing patch in flight

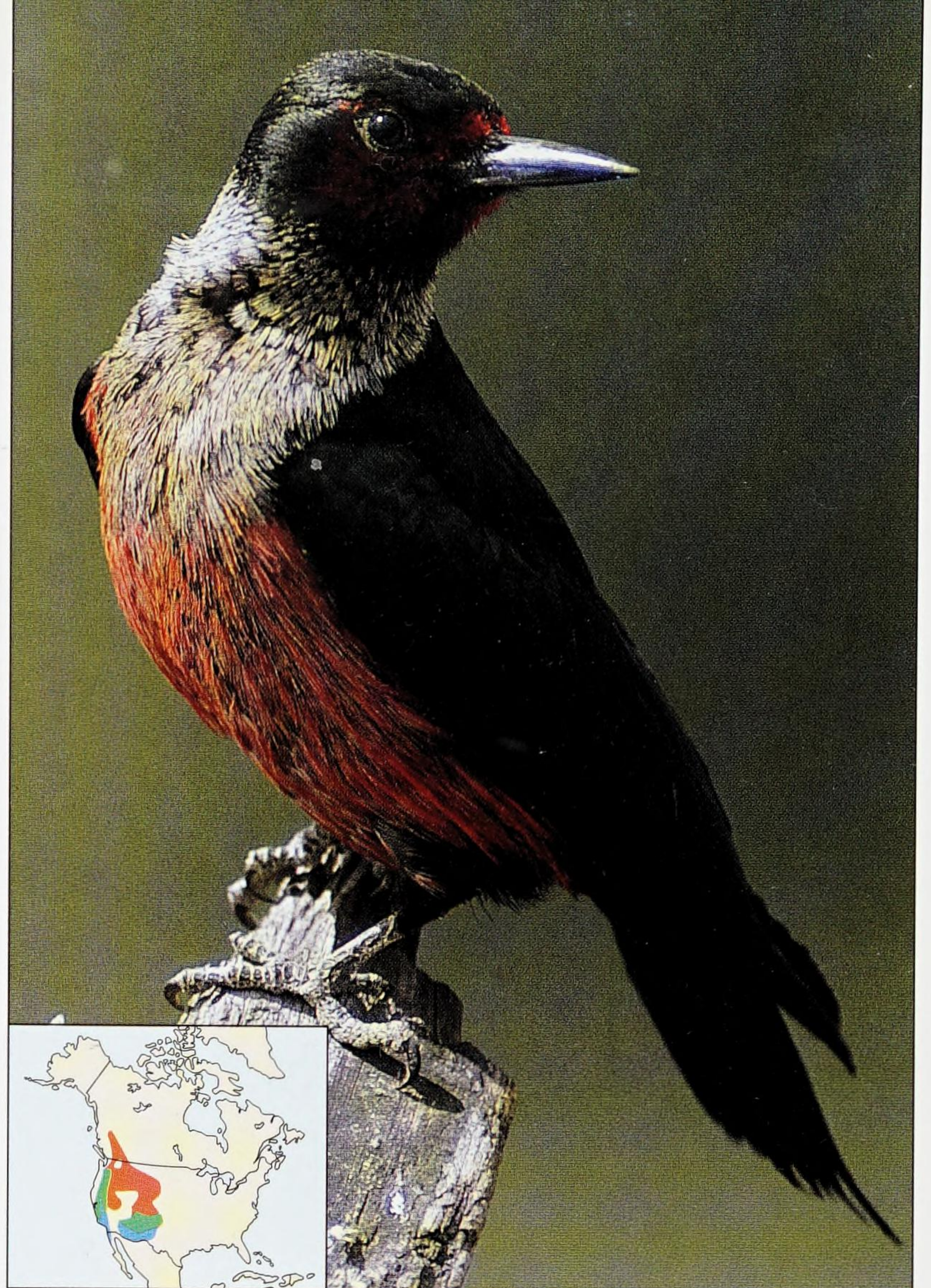
The Acorn Woodpecker does not have a wide range, but is locally quite common. It prefers woods where oak trees are abundant,

where it is found in small, noisy colonies. It does not build a nest but excavates a suitable cavity in a dead tree, up to 80 feet above the ground, in which it lays 4-5 white eggs. These are incubated by both adults for around 14 days - often helped by other members of the colony - and the fledglings leave around 4 weeks after they have hatched, leaving the parents free to raise a second brood. The adult bird is medium size, with a red crown, dark eyes with white eye ring, a black nape, back, wings and tail, a yellow-white forehead and throat, and a white belly with heavy dark streaking on breast and flanks. In flight, it shows a white rump and wing patches. The female has a black bar between the crown and forehead. The Acorn Woodpecker collects acorns, and sometimes almonds and walnuts, which it stores in holes drilled in trees, fence posts or utility poles, packing the nuts in very tightly so squirrels cannot take them. The same holes are often reused by the colony year after year. In mild weather, this species also flies out to catch insects in midair.

LEWIS'S WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>
Length:	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open woodlands
Identification:	Large, long-winged, long-tailed woodpecker. Metallic-green black above, collar and breast gray, dark red face, pink-red belly
Similar species:	Size and coloring make it unmistakable, although from a distance its slow flight, broad wings and dark color mean it might be mistaken for a crow

Lewis's Woodpecker is fairly common locally within its range, which is limited to groves of tall trees in open country in areas of western North America. It is a gregarious bird, so several birds form breeding colonies and are often seen together. Its 5-8 eggs are laid in a cavity excavated in a dead stump or tree branch, often very high above the ground. The eggs are incubated by both parent birds for around 12 days and the young leave the nest around 4-5 weeks after hatching. The adult bird is large, with long wings and a long tail. Its plumage is metallic-green black above, with a gray collar and breast, a dark red face, and a pink-red belly. The juvenile is duller, with no collar or red face and usually only a faint reddish belly. Lewis's Woodpecker flies slowly, with smooth, steady wingbeats. It does not peck at bark like other woodpeckers to find insects and beetles, but sits on a prominent perch and flies out to catch insects in midair. It also eats fruit, berries and nuts and stores acorns to eat in winter.



RED-HEADED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>
Length:	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open and dense woods
Identification:	Medium-size, broad-winged woodpecker. Bright red head, neck and throat, blue-black back, pure white underparts
Similar species:	Adult unmistakable

Although still common across its extensive range, the Red-headed Woodpecker population is declining in many areas - partly due to loss of its breeding habitat and partly because of competition from starlings and other birds for nesting holes. Like other woodpeckers it favors dead wood in which to excavate its hole, but dead and dying trees are now routinely removed. In a suitable cavity, it lays 4-6 white eggs, which are incubated by both parent birds for around 14 days; the young leave the nest around 4 weeks after hatching, and there is often a second brood. The adult bird is medium size, with a bright red head, neck and throat, a blue-black back, and pure white underparts. In flight it has large white wing patches and a white rump. The juvenile is duller, with a brownish head and dark bars across the wing patch. The Red-headed Woodpecker pecks at bark to find insects and beetles, but also sometimes flies out to catch insects in midair and eats nuts and acorns.



GOLDEN-FRONTED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Melanerpes aurifrons</i>
Length:	9¾ inches
Habitat:	Dry woodlands, brushland
Identification:	Medium-size, heavy-bodied woodpecker. Head and underparts pale buff with a yellow tint to the belly, golden-orange nape, black and white barred back, black tail feathers. White wing patches and white rump in flight. Male has small red cap
Similar species:	Female and juvenile Gila Woodpecker similar to female Golden-fronted, but have barred central tail feathers and lack golden-orange nape. Red-bellied Woodpecker has a red nape

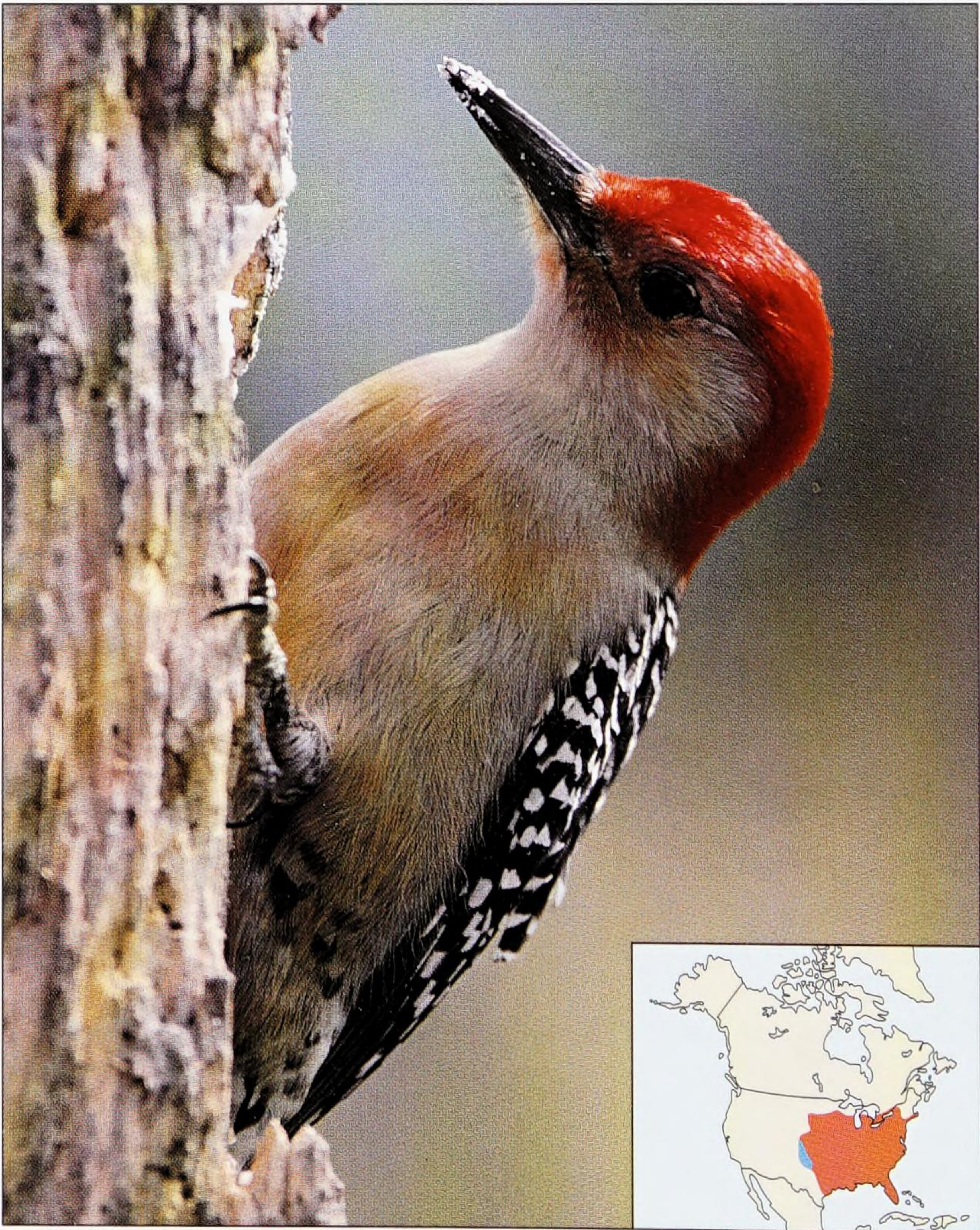
The Golden-fronted Woodpecker is found in the southeast, across Texas into Oklahoma and down into Mexico, and is closely related to both the Gila and Red-bellied woodpeckers. It excavates a nesting hole in a dead tree or mesquite, up to 25 feet above the ground, which is often used for several years. Its 4-6 white eggs are incubated by both adults for around 2 weeks and the chicks leave the nest about 4 weeks later, but remain with the parents for some time. The adult bird is a medium-size, heavy-bodied bird, with a fairly long bill and short wings. The adult has a pale buff head and underparts with a yellow tint to the belly, a golden-orange nape and gold feathering above the bill, a black and white barred back and black tail feathers. In flight, it shows white wing patches and a white rump. The juvenile is similar to the female; the male (*right*) has a small red cap. The Golden-fronted Woodpecker eats insects, fruit and acorns.



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
Length:	9¼ inches
Habitat:	Open woodland, swamps, suburbs, city parks
Identification:	Medium-size, heavy-bodied woodpecker. Head and underparts pale buff with a reddish tint to the belly, red nape, black and white barred back and central tail feathers. White wing patches and white rump in flight. Male has red crown
Similar species:	Very similar to Gila and Golden-fronted woodpeckers, but red nape is distinctive

Found across much of eastern North America, the Red-bellied Woodpecker is common and is extending its range northwards. The southernmost part of its range overlaps with that of the Golden-fronted Woodpecker, and the two species have interbred. The Red-bellied excavates a nesting hole in a dead tree, fence post or utility pole, which can be up to 70 feet above the ground. Its 4-6 white eggs are incubated by both adults for around 2 weeks and the chicks leave the nest about 3-4 weeks later, but remain with the parents for some time. The adult bird is a medium-size, heavy-bodied bird, with a fairly long bill and short wings. The adult has a pale buff head and underparts with a reddish tint to the belly, a red nape, a black and white barred back and a black tail with barred central feathers. In flight, it shows white wing patches and a white rump. In the male (*right*), the red nape extends up and over the head. The Red-bellied Woodpecker eats insects, fruit and seeds, and in Florida spears oranges with its bill to suck the juice.





GILA WOODPECKER

Scientific name: *Melanerpes uropygialis*

Length: 9¼ inches

Habitat: Scrub desert, cactus country, town suburbs

Identification: Medium-size, heavy-bodied woodpecker. Head and underparts gray-brown, black and white barred back and rump, central tail feathers barred. Prominent white wing patches in flight. Male has small red cap

Similar species: Female Golden-fronted Woodpecker similar to female and juvenile Gila, but has black tail and golden-orange nape. Female Red-bellied Woodpecker has a red nape

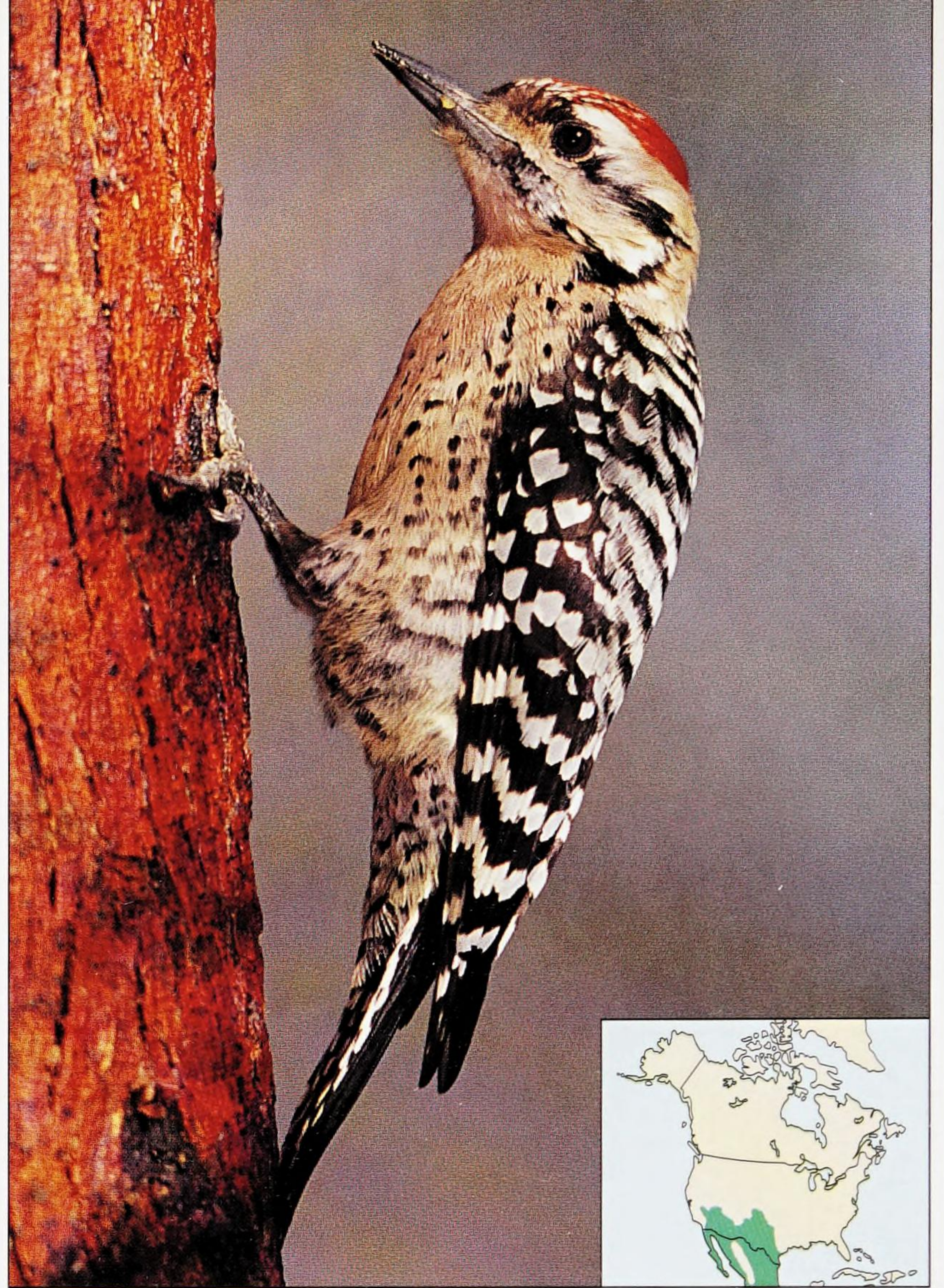
Found in the low desert scrub of southwest North America and down into central Mexico, the Gila Woodpecker is a very noisy bird.

It prefers giant saguaro cactus and mesquite for nesting, although it will also use trees, excavating a cavity up to 25 feet above the ground in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated by both adults for around 2 weeks and the parents often go on to raise a second brood in the same season. The adult bird is a medium-size, heavy-bodied bird, with a fairly long bill and short wings. The adult has a gray-brown head and underparts, a black and white barred back and rump; its outer tail feathers are black and the central ones are barred. In flight, it shows prominent white wing patches. The juvenile is similar to the female; the male (*above*) has a small red cap. The Gila Woodpecker digs into cactus and bark, hunting for insects and their larvae; it often performs a service to the plant by removing larvae that are damaging its tissues. The Gila will also eat cactus fruit and berries, and may visit garden feeders - particularly for suet and corn.

LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>
Length:	7¼ inches
Habitat:	Dry brushland, cactus country, town suburbs
Identification:	Small woodpecker. Distinct black and white bars on back, face buff with black markings, underparts buffy-gray with spotted flanks, white barred outer tail feathers. Male has red crown, female black
Similar species:	Nuttall's Woodpecker almost identical, but has more black on face, less red on crown, white rather than buff underparts

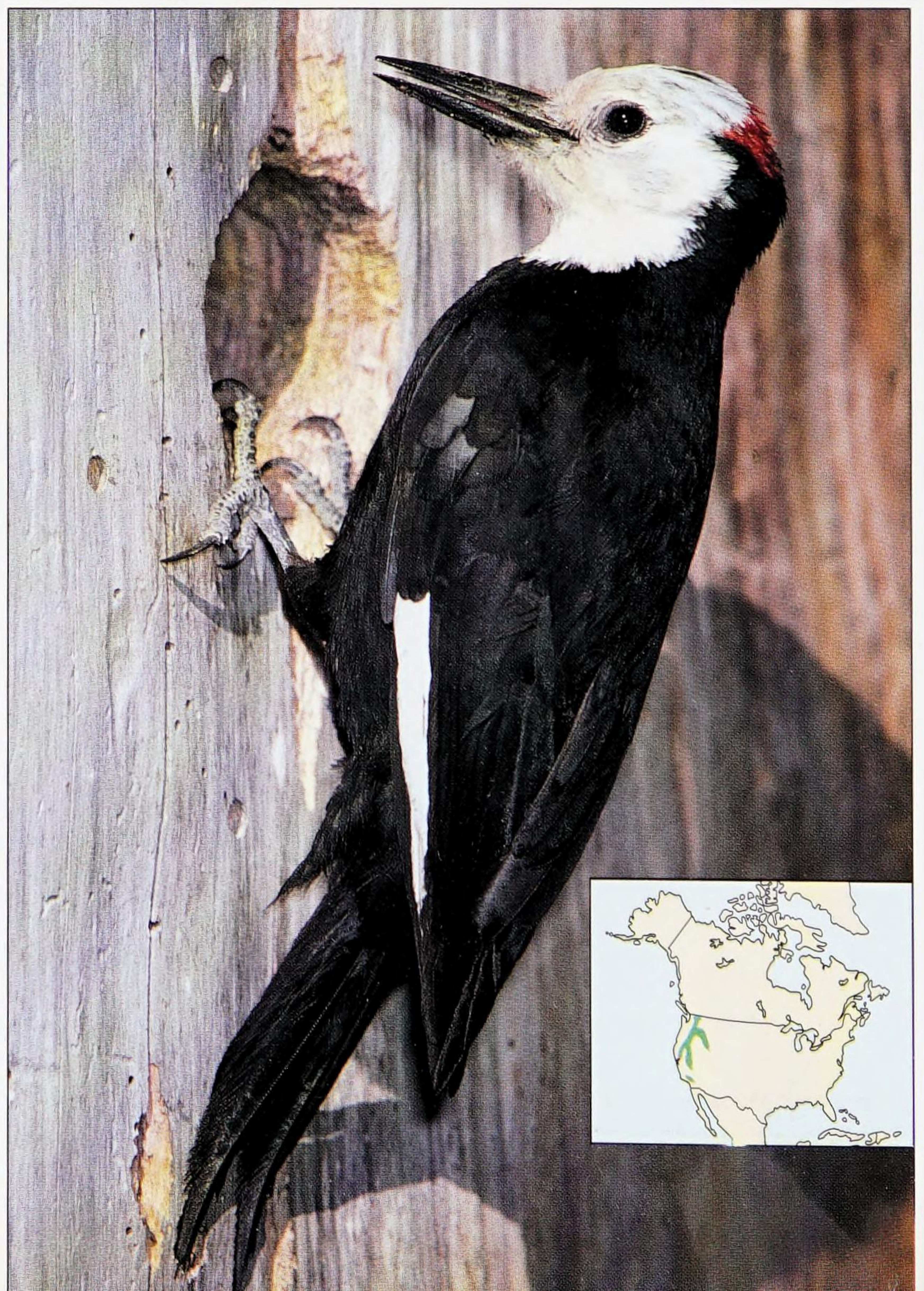
The Ladder-backed Woodpecker is common in dry and desert areas across the south. Part of its range overlaps with that of the very similar Nuttall's Woodpecker, and the two species have interbred. The Ladder-backed often nests in the tall, dry stalk of the agave plant, or excavates a hole high above the ground in a yucca, cottonwood tree or fence post. It lays 4 or 5 white eggs, that are incubated by both parents. The adult bird is one of the smaller woodpeckers, with distinct black and white bars across the back, a buff face with black markings, buffy-gray underparts with spotted flanks, and white barred outer tail feathers. The male (*right*) has a red crown, that of the female is black. The Ladder-backed Woodpecker eats the larvae of the agave beetle, so controlling its infestation of the plant. It also eats wood-boring insects, caterpillars and cactus fruit.



WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>
Length:	9¾ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous mountain forests
Identification:	Medium-size woodpecker. White head and throat, small white wing patch, otherwise all black. Male has red patch on back of head
Similar species:	Black body and white head are distinctive. In flight the male could be confused with the male Acorn Woodpecker, which has a red crown, more black on face and a white rump

Despite its distinctive coloring the White-headed Woodpecker is inconspicuous and hard to spot, since the black and white plumage provides very good camouflage when the bird is still. Unlike most woodpeckers, it rarely taps or drums. Within its limited range it is fairly common, although it is rare further north and at lower altitudes. It breeds in mountain pine forests, excavating a hole up to 50 feet above the ground in a dead conifer in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated by both parents, for around 10 days. The adult is a medium-size woodpecker with a white head and throat, a white wing patch, and an all-black body - although the male (*right*) has a small red patch on the back of the head. The White-headed Woodpecker mainly eats pine cone seeds, but also flakes off tree bark to find the insects and larvae underneath.





BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER

Scientific name: *Picoides arcticus*

Length: 9½ inches

Habitat: Coniferous forests, burned-over pines

Identification: Large, strong woodpecker with fairly short tail. Black head with thin white line behind eye, white face stripe, black above, white underparts, barred flanks. Male has yellow cap

Similar species: Male Three-toed also has yellow cap, but has black and white barred back

The Black-backed Woodpecker inhabits a very similar range in the north of America to the Three-toed Woodpecker and is fairly

uncommon, although it is sometimes seen some way south of its mapped area. It also prefers dead and dying trees, flaking off the bark rather than drilling to find the insects underneath - although it does drum frequently like other woodpeckers to mark its territory. In the breeding season it excavates a hole up to 15 feet above the ground in a dead or dying conifer in which it lays 4-5 white eggs. These are incubated by both parent birds, for around 2 weeks. The adult is a big, strong woodpecker with a largish head and a fairly short tail. Like the Three-toed, the Black-backed has only 3 toes, which all point forward. It has a black head with a thin white line behind the eye, a wide white facial stripe like a mustache, and is black above with white underparts and heavily barred flanks. The male (*above*) has a yellow cap. The Black-backed Woodpecker eats wood-boring insects, as well as other insects, spiders and berries.



HAIRY WOODPECKER *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Picoides villosus</i>
Length:	9¼ inches
Habitat:	Open and dense forests
Identification:	Medium-size woodpecker with long, sturdy bill. White back, black forehead and crown, broad black eye stripe, white face and underparts, wings black with white spots. Male has red patch on nape
Similar species:	Downy Woodpecker almost identical, but is much smaller with a shorter bill

Fairly common across the whole continent, except in the southwest and the far north, the Hairy Woodpecker is seen in mature woodland with large trees. When breeding it excavates a hole high above the ground in a dead tree limb, and often uses the same cavity year after year. It lays 4-7 white eggs, which are incubated by the male at night and the female during the day, for around 2 weeks. The young birds leave the nest around 4-5 weeks after hatching. The adult bird is fairly large and strong, with a long, sturdy bill. It has a white back, black forehead and crown, a broad black eye stripe, a white face and underparts, and black wings with white spots. The male *(above)* has a red patch on the nape. In the Pacific northwest, birds tend to have a gray-brown back and underparts, but are otherwise the same. In flight, the outer tail feathers are white and usually lack any barring - although this may be difficult to see. The Hairy Woodpecker drills into trees to find the wood-boring insects under the bark and also eats berries and seeds. Like many other woodpeckers, it also drums on trees and posts to proclaim its territory.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i>
Length:	8¾ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous forests, burned-over pines
Identification:	Medium-size, stocky woodpecker with short bill. Black head with white face stripes, black and white barred back, white underparts, black wings, rump and tail, barred flanks. Male has yellow cap
Similar species:	Male Black-backed also has yellow cap, but has plain black back

Although they cover a wide range in the north, the Three-toed Woodpecker is uncommon to rare and is hard to spot because it is fairly quiet for a woodpecker, only hammering on trees to mark its territory. It prefers dead and dying trees, and instead of drilling into the wood to find food it flakes off the bark to find the insects underneath. It does not build a nest but excavates a hole high above the ground in a dead tree - usually a conifer - in which it lays 4 white eggs. These are incubated by both parents, for around 2 weeks. The adult is a medium-size, stocky woodpecker, with a short bill. Most woodpeckers have 4 toes, 2 pointing forwards and 2 back, but the Three-toed has only 3, which all point forward. It has a black head with white face stripes, black and white barring down the center of the back, white underparts, black wings, rump and tail, and barred flanks. The male has a yellow cap. The Three-toed Woodpecker eats wood-boring insects, as well as other insects, spiders and berries.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Picoides borealis</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Open mature pine forests
Identification:	Slender, long-tailed woodpecker with small bill. Black and white barred back, black forehead and crown, white cheeks and underparts with spotting on flanks. Male has tiny red cockade behind eye
Similar species:	White cheek patch is distinctive

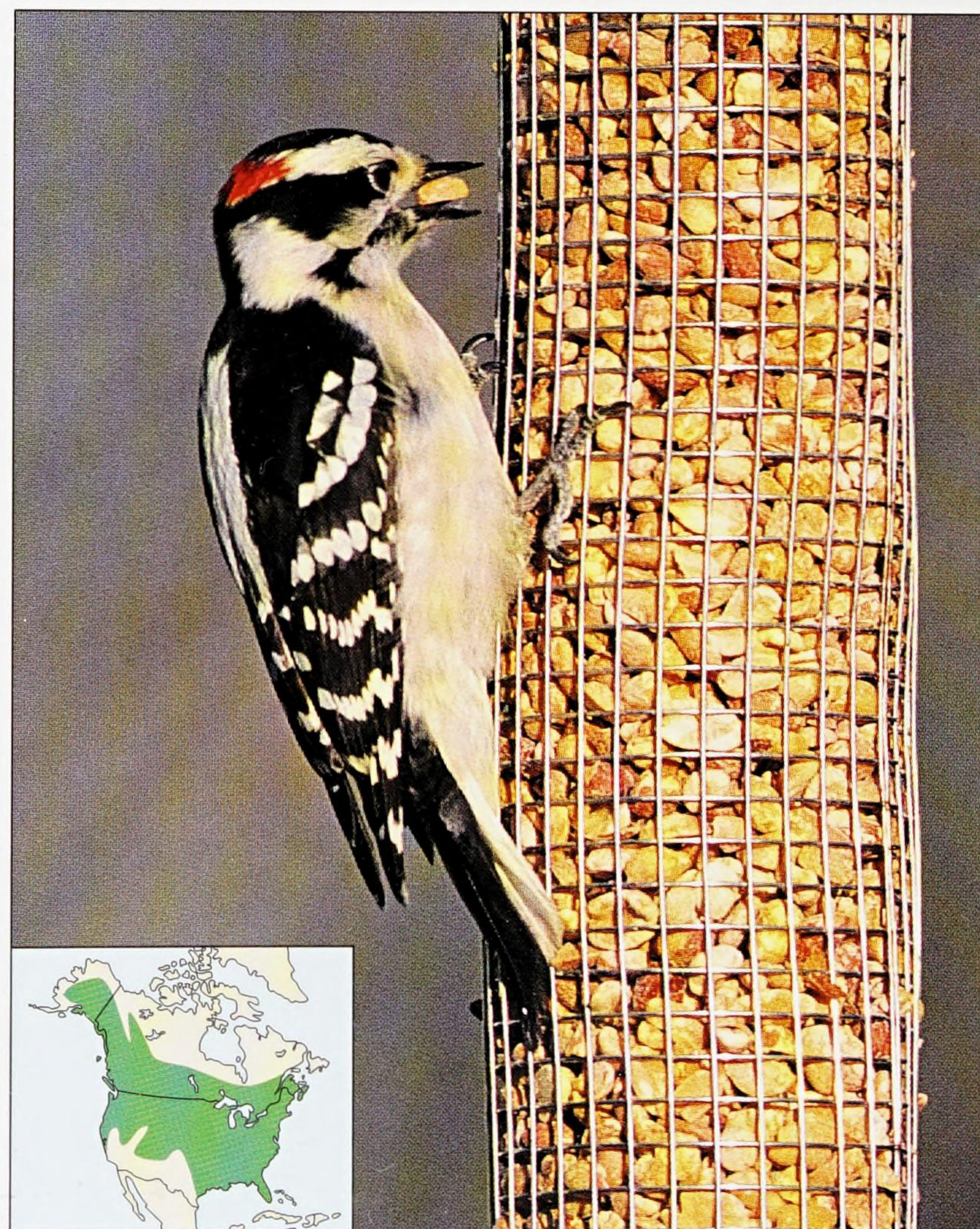
An endangered species, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is found only in mature pine woods in the southeast and populations are still declining due to destruction of its preferred nesting habitat. Unlike other woodpeckers it does not excavate a cavity in a dead tree, but chooses a large, living pine tree infected with fungal heartwood disease - and such trees are now usually felled before they are big enough. The nest hole is dug into the decayed heart of the tree and the opening is surrounded by small holes that ooze pitch, apparently to deter predators. Nests are situated in small colonies, and may be used for several years. The female lays 2-5 white eggs, which are incubated by the male at night and the female during the day. The adult bird is slender, with a long tail and a small bill. It has a black and white barred back, a black forehead and crown, a large white cheek patch and white underparts with spotting on the flanks. The male has a tiny red cockade behind the eye, which is difficult to spot; the juvenile is similar to the female but may show some red on the crown. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker drills into trees to find the wood-boring insects under the bark.



DOWNY WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>
Length:	6¾ inches
Habitat:	Woodland, suburbs, parkland
Identification:	Small woodpecker with very short bill. White back, black forehead and crown, broad black eye stripe, white face and underparts, wings black with white spots. Male has red patch on nape
Similar species:	Hairy Woodpecker almost identical, but is larger, has longer bill

The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest North American woodpecker and is common across the whole continent, except in drier regions in the southwest and the cold far north. It is often seen in suburbs, parks and orchards as well as woodland. As a nest it excavates a hole up to 50 feet above the ground in a dead tree trunk or branch, in which it lays 4-7 white eggs, which are incubated by both parents for around 2 weeks. The young birds leave the nest just over 3 weeks after hatching, and there is often a second brood. The adult bird has a very short bill - although that of the male is slightly longer. Both birds have a white back, black forehead and crown, a broad black eye stripe, white face and underparts, and black wings with white spots. The male (*right*) is slightly larger and has a small red patch on the nape. In the Pacific northwest, birds tend to have a gray-brown back and underparts, but are otherwise the same. In flight, the outer tail feathers are white, barred with black - although this may be difficult to see. The Downy Woodpecker will often come to bird tables for suet, but also eats wood-boring insects, berries and seeds.



WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER

Scientific name:	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>
Length:	9 inches
Habitat:	Dry coniferous forests
Identification:	Long-winged, delicate woodpecker. Male has black head, breast and back, white facial stripes, bright red throat, large white wing and rump patches, lemon yellow belly with black and white barred flanks. Female has brown head, dark brown and white barring above and on flanks, large dark bib and yellow patch on belly
Similar species:	Coloring is distinctive

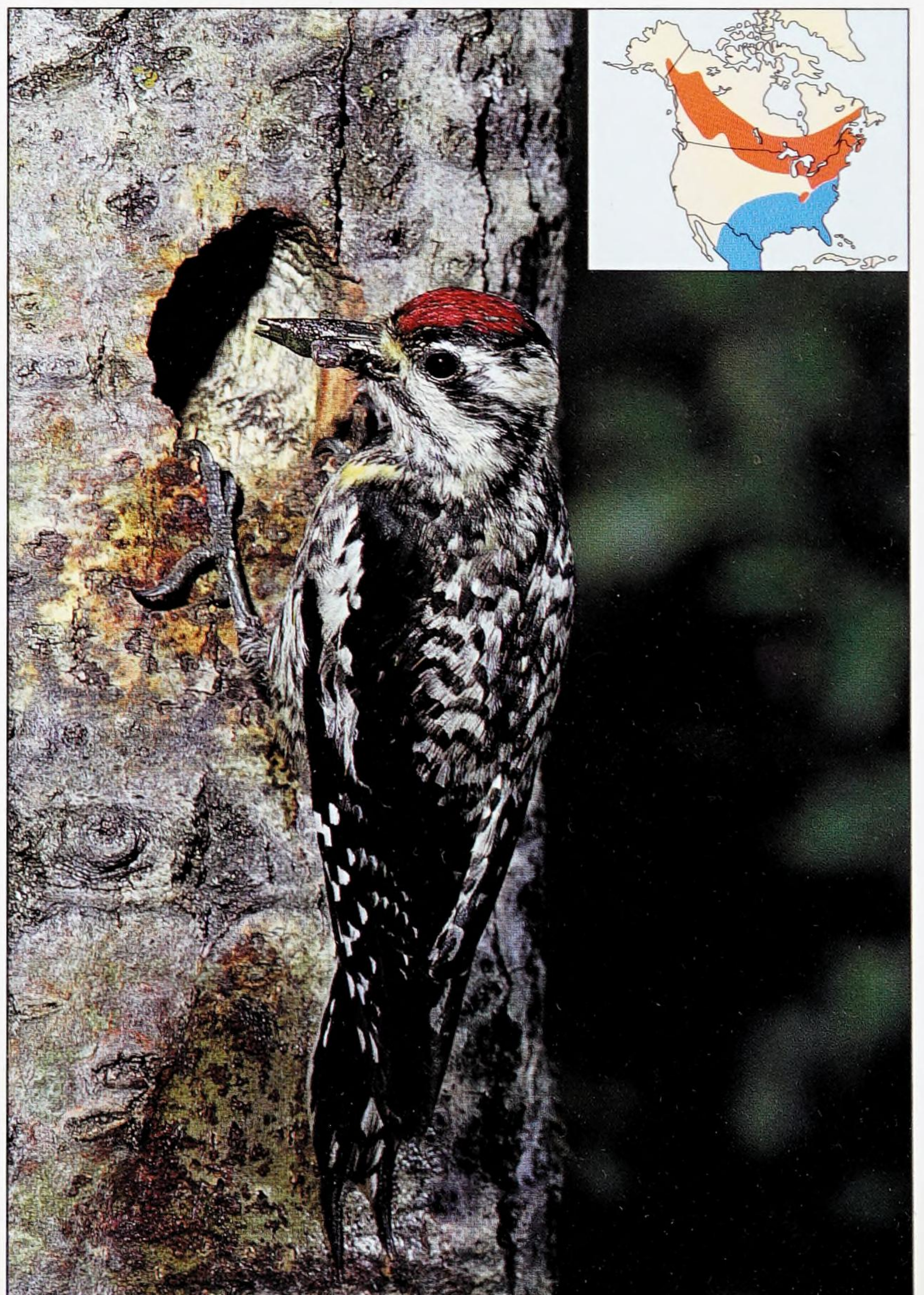
The largest sapsucker, Williamson's is fairly common in dry conifer forests in summer, moving south or to lower elevations in winter. In its breeding grounds, it excavates a cavity high above the ground in a dead tree, usually a pine. It may reuse the same tree the following year, but will dig a new hole, leaving the old one for other species. It lays 3-7 white eggs, which are incubated by both parent birds. The adult has long wings, and male and female have very different plumage. The male has a black head, breast and back, white facial stripes, a bright red throat, large white wing and rump patches, and a bright lemon-yellow belly with black and white barred flanks. The female (*right*) has a brown head, dark brown and white barring above and on the flanks, a large dark bib and small, dull yellow belly patch. The juvenile resembles the adult, but acquires its adult plumage by the beginning of winter. Williamson's Sapsucker eats ants, insects and berries, and drinks the sap from trees.



YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER

Scientific name:	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous forests
Identification:	Long-winged, delicate woodpecker. Black and white striped head, red forehead, black back spotted with white, white rump, long white wing patch, yellowish underparts with black breast band. Male has red chin and throat, female has white
Similar species:	Red-naped Sapsucker has red on back of head

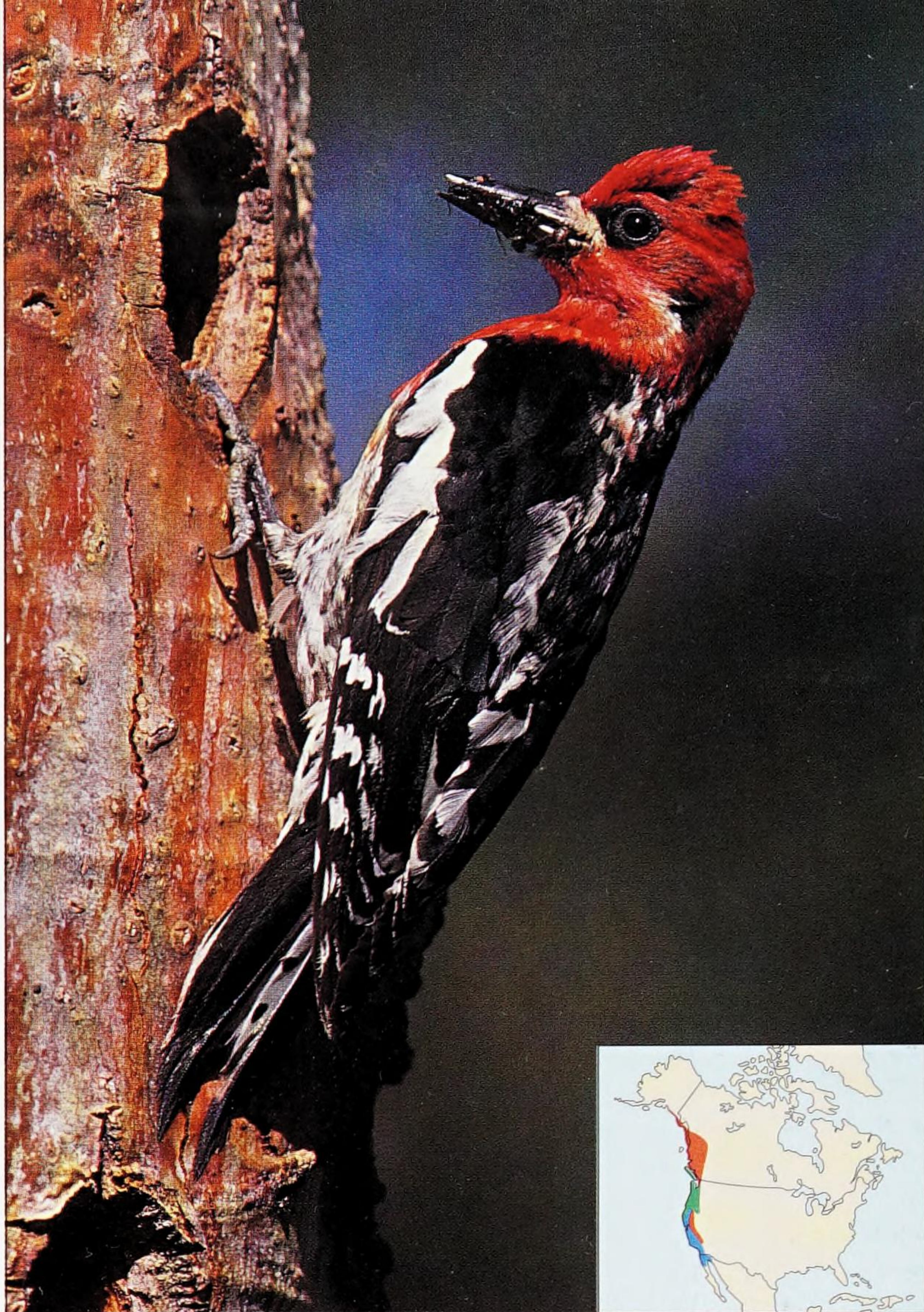
Like woodpeckers, sapsuckers drill holes in trees but as well as insects they are after the oozing sap, which they return to drink. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is common in the forests of the north in summer, and migrates south to spend the winter in the southeast. In its breeding grounds, it excavates a cavity up to 45 feet above the ground in a dead tree, in which it lays 4-6 white eggs. These are incubated for just under 2 weeks, by both parent birds and the young leave the nest about 4 weeks after hatching. The adult is a delicate woodpecker with long wings. It has a black and white striped head, a red forehead, black back spotted with white, a white rump, a long white wing patch, and yellowish underparts with a black breast band. The male has a red chin and throat, that of the female (*right*) is white. The juvenile bird is mainly brown until late in its first winter. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker eats insects and berries, and drinks the sap from trees.



RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER

Scientific name:	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed humid forests
Identification:	Long-winged, delicate woodpecker. Red head and breast, black back lightly spotted with white, white rump, long white wing patch, yellowish belly
Similar species:	Red head and breast are distinctive

The Red-breasted and the Red-naped sapsucker were both once considered to be a subspecies of the Yellow-bellied, but they are now thought to be different - although all three species are known to interbreed. The Red-breasted is common in the deciduous and mixed forests of the Pacific coast, most birds spending the summer in the north and migrating south in the winter, or moving to lower elevations. A few stay in the same area all year round. In its breeding grounds, it excavates a cavity up to 45 feet above the ground in a dead tree, in which it lays 4-6 white eggs. These are incubated for just under 2 weeks, by both parent birds and the young leave the nest about 4 weeks after hatching. The adult is a delicate woodpecker with long wings. It has a red head and breast, a black back lightly spotted with white, a white rump, a long white wing patch, and a yellowish belly. Northern birds tend to have more yellow spots on the back and a yellower belly, southern birds are more white. The juvenile bird is mainly brown but quickly acquires its adult plumage. The Red-breasted Sapsucker eats insects and berries, and drinks the sap from trees.



RED-NAPED SAPSUCKER

Scientific name:	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous forests
Identification:	Long-winged, delicate woodpecker. Black and white striped head, red forehead and nape, black back spotted with white, white rump, long white wing patch, yellowish underparts with black breast band. Male has extensive red on chin and throat, female has white chin and red throat
Similar species:	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker almost identical, but lacks red on back of head and female has white throat

The Red-naped and the Red-breasted sapsuckers were both once considered to be a subspecies of the Yellow-bellied, but they are now thought to be different. The Red-naped is common in the deciduous forests of the northwest in summer, and migrates south to spend the winter in the southwest. In its breeding grounds, it excavates a cavity up to 45 feet above the ground in a dead tree, in which it lays 4-6 white eggs. These are incubated for just under 2 weeks, by both parent birds and the young leave the nest about 4 weeks after hatching. The adult is a delicate woodpecker with long wings. It has a black and white striped head, a red forehead and nape, black back spotted with white, a white rump, a long white wing patch, and yellowish underparts with a black breast band. The male has an extensive red chin and throat, the female has a white chin and variable amounts of red on the throat. The juvenile bird is mainly brown until late in its first winter. The Red-naped Sapsucker eats insects and berries, and also drinks the sap from trees.

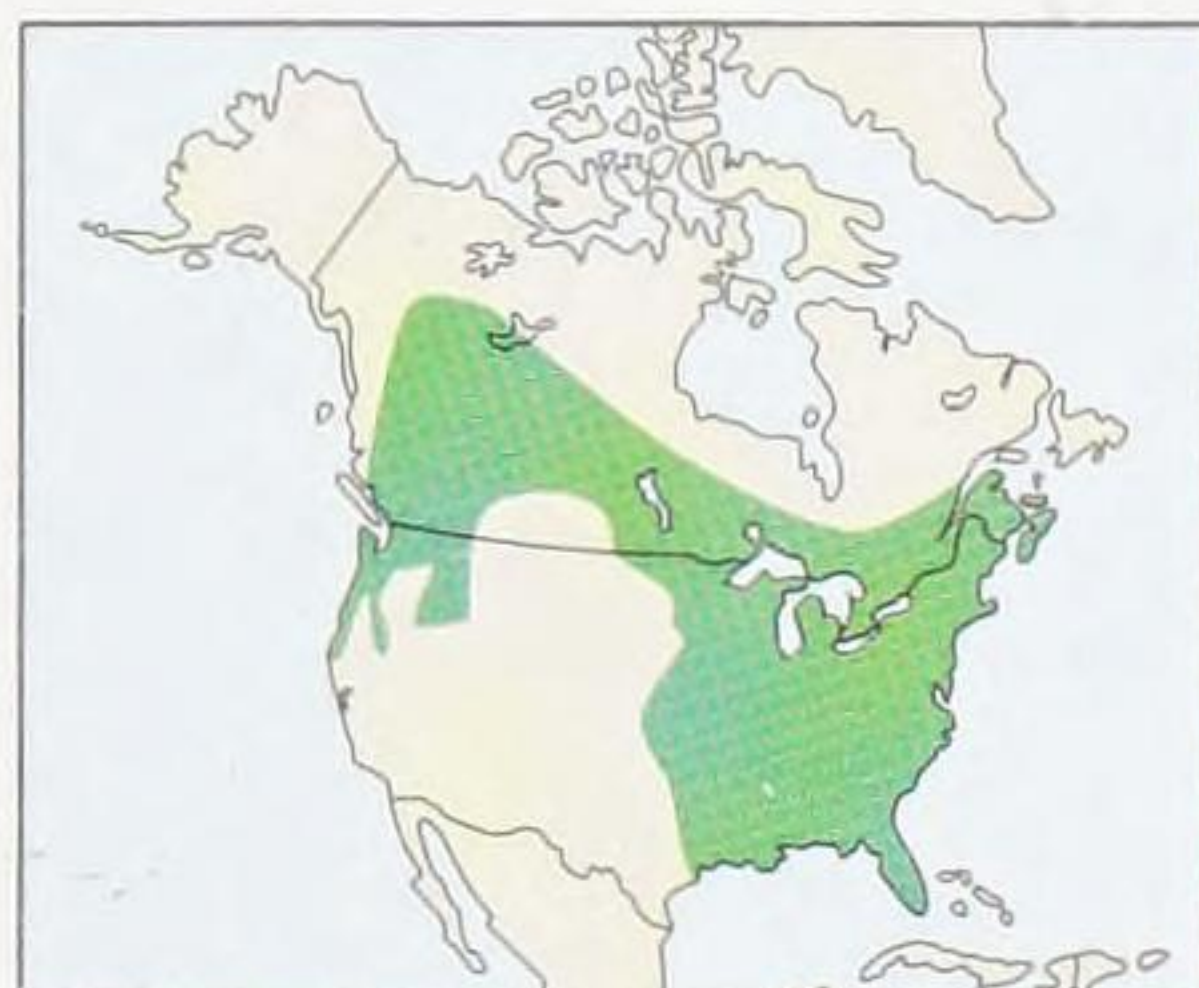


PILEATED WOODPECKER

Scientific name:	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>
Length:	16½ inches
Habitat:	Dense mature forests, large trees in city parks
Identification:	Large, long-necked, broad-winged, long-tailed woodpecker with prominent crest. Mostly black, red crest and mustache, white chin, white stripe running across face and down neck, white under wings seen in flight
Similar species:	Large size and coloring distinctive

The largest North American woodpecker - after the Ivory-billed, which is now believed to be extinct - the Pileated Woodpecker lives

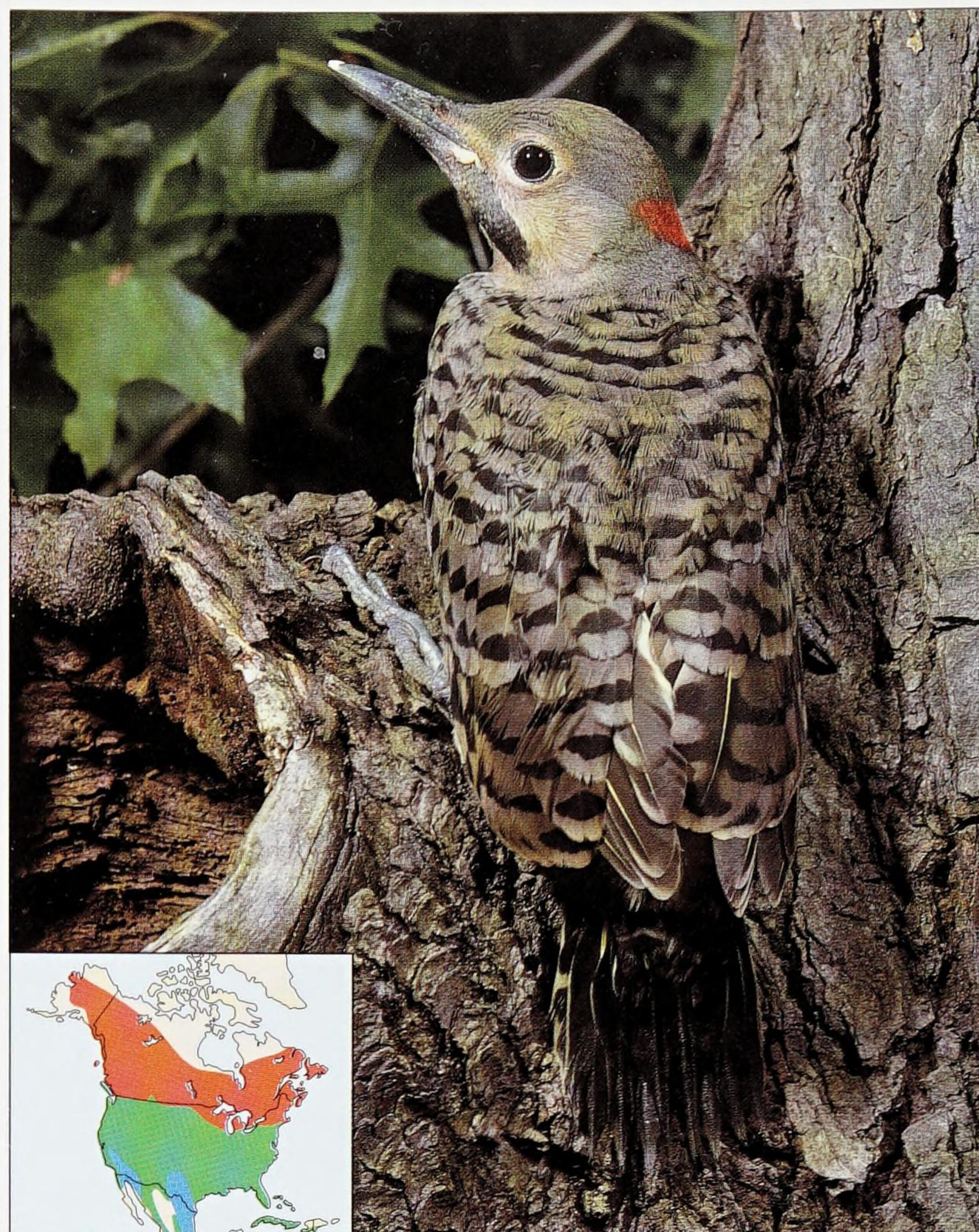
in dense, mature forest. It is locally common in some areas, and stays in the same area all year round. At breeding time, it excavates a cavity up to 70 feet above the ground in the dead limb of a large, mature tree, or in the trunk of a dead tree, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated for about 2-3 weeks, by both parents; the young leave the nest about 3-4 weeks after hatching. The male is a large, long-necked, broad-winged woodpecker with a long tail and a prominent bright red crest. Its plumage is mostly black, with a bright red mustache, a white chin, and a white stripe running across the face and down the neck. In flight, it shows white under the wings and white flanks. The female (*below*) is very similar, but has less red on the head and lacks the red mustache. The staple diet of the Pileated Woodpecker is carpenter ants, which live in dead wood. It also eats other wood-boring insects, and berries in winter.



NORTHERN FLICKER

Scientific name:	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>
Length:	12½ inches
Habitat:	Open woodlands, suburbs
Identification:	Large, broad-winged, long-tailed woodpecker. Brown barred back, spotted underparts, black crescent bib, white rump in flight. Either yellow wing lining and undertail, gray crown, tan face, black mustache, red crescent on nape, or reddish wing lining and undertail, brown crown, gray face, red mustache, with no red on nape
Similar species:	Gilded Flicker has yellow wing linings, but cinnamon-brown crown

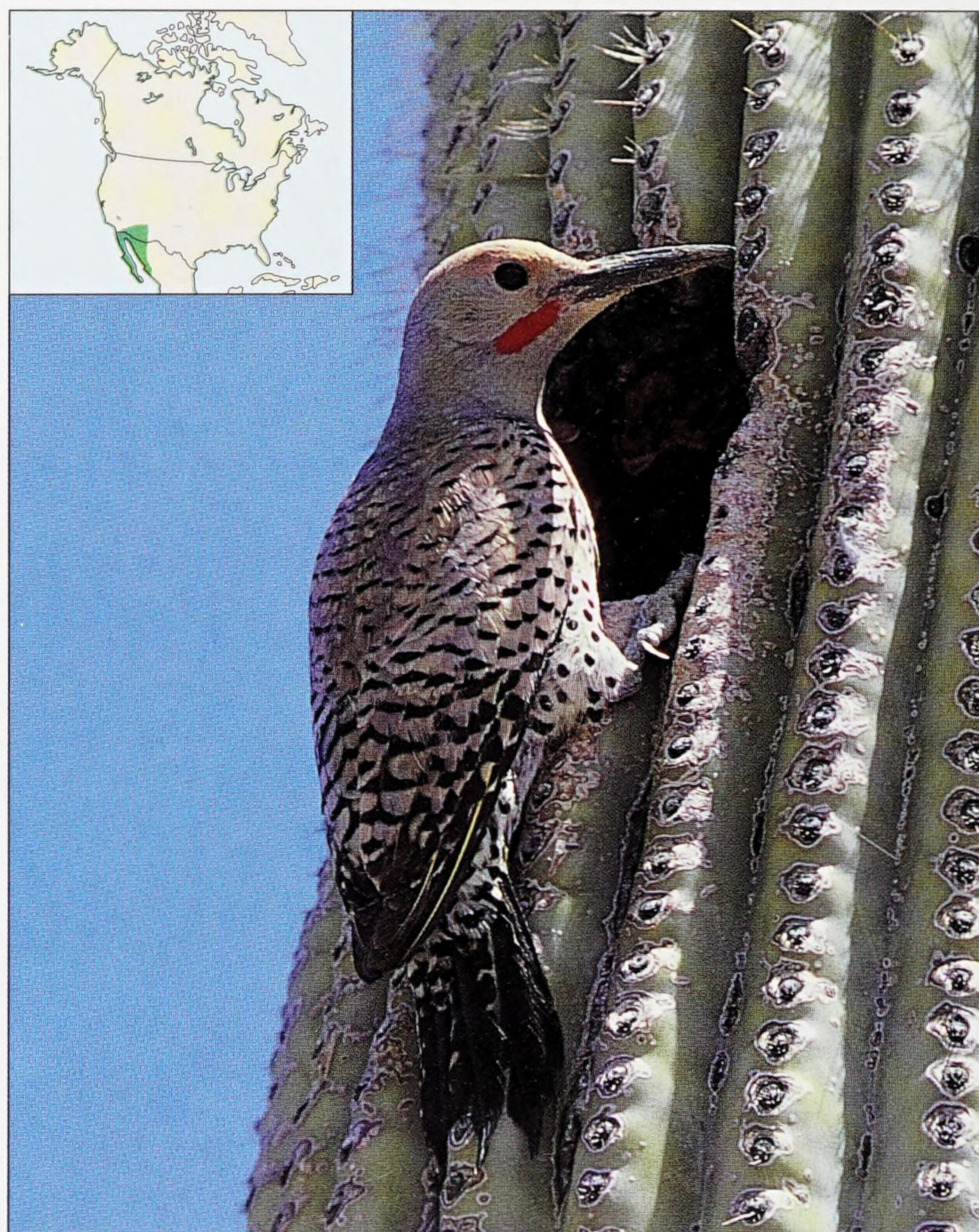
The distinctive coloring of flickers means they are easy to identify, although the two species are similar. The Northern Flicker is common in woodland, ranging north in summer but retreating south in winter. In spring it excavates a cavity high above the ground in a tree, fence post or cactus, in which it lays 5-10 white eggs. The adult is broad-winged and long-tailed and has two distinct color variations. Both have a brown barred back, spotted underparts, a black crescent bib, and a white rump in flight. The "yellow-shafted" male (*right*) in the west and north has yellow wing linings and undertail, a gray crown, tan face with a black mustache, and a red crescent on the nape. The "red-shafted" male in the east has red wing linings and undertail, a brown crown, gray face with a red mustache, and no red on the nape. The female is similar in each case, but lacks the mustache. Where the two overlap they interbreed, producing many variations. The Northern Flicker forages on the ground for ants and insects; it also eats berries in winter.



GILDED FLICKER

Scientific name:	<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>
Length:	11½ inches
Habitat:	Desert woodlands, cactus country
Identification:	Large, broad-winged, long-tailed woodpecker. Buff-brown barred back, spotted underparts, large black crescent bib, white rump in flight. Yellow wing lining and undertail, cinnamon-brown crown, gray face. Male has red mustache
Similar species:	"Yellow-shafted" Northern Flicker has yellow wing linings, "red-shafted" Northern Flicker has brown crown

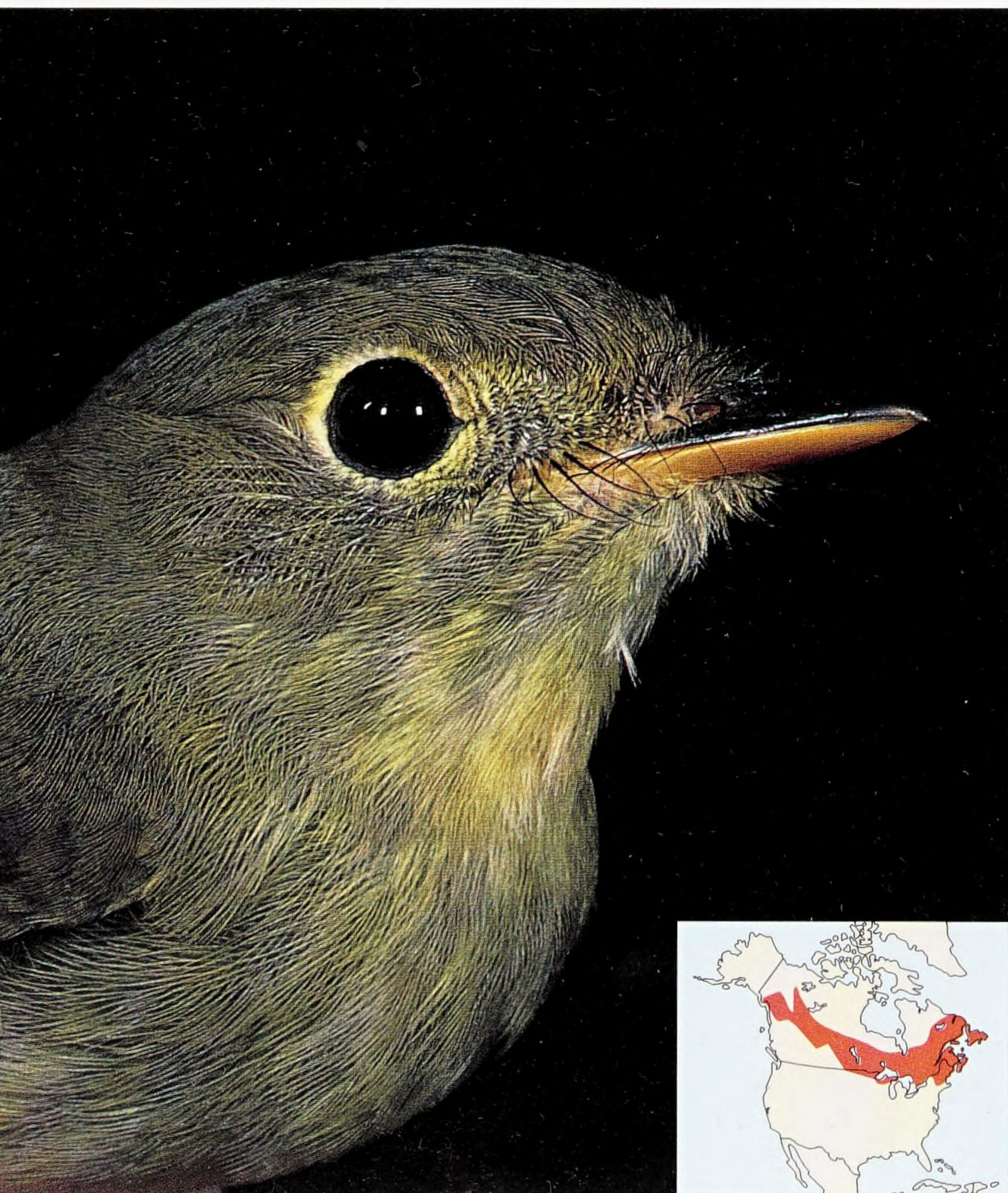
The Gilded Flicker was once considered to be a subspecies of the Northern Flicker, but has now been accorded full species status. However, it is known to interbreed with the "red-shafted" Northern Flicker where their ranges overlap. Although the range of the Gilded Flicker is quite small, it is common in desert woodland and saguaro and stays in the same general area all year round. In its breeding season, it excavates a cavity in a giant saguaro cactus or in a riverside tree, in which it lays 5-10 white eggs. These are incubated for about 1-2 weeks, by both parent birds; the young leave the nest about 3-4 weeks after hatching. The adult is a large, broad-winged, long-tailed woodpecker with a buff-brown barred back, spotted underparts, a large black crescent bib, and a white rump in flight. It has yellow wing linings and undertail, a cinnamon-brown crown, and a gray face with a red mustache. The female is very similar, but lacks the mustache mark. The Gilded Flicker eats ants and other ground insects and also berries in winter.



ALDER FLYCATCHER

- Scientific name:** *Empidonax alnorum*
Length: 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat: Swamps, birch and alder thickets, brush near bogs
Identification: Small, long-winged flycatcher with large bill, flat forehead and small peak at rear of crown. Olive-gray above, white throat, olive-gray wash across upper breast, whitish lower breast, belly and undertail coverts, pale eye ring, longish primaries on wings, two whitish wing bars
Similar species: All the *empidonax* flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

The Alder and the Willow flycatchers are so similar that they were once thought to be one species. The Alder is found in summer in birch and alder thickets near bogs across northern America, but migrates to the Southern Hemisphere for the winter. In the breeding season it builds an untidy nest of roots and fibers up to 20 feet above the ground in an upright fork of a tree or bush, in which it lays 3 or 4 white eggs with fine brown spotting. These are incubated for around 2 weeks and the young leave the nest about 14 days after hatching. The adult is a small bird with long wings and tail; its head has a flat forehead with a peak on the rear crown and it has a large bill. It is olive-gray above, with a white throat, olive-gray wash across the upper breast, a whitish lower breast, belly and undertail coverts, and a pale eye ring. The wings have longish primaries and it has two whitish wing bars. Its song is a monotonous *fee-BEE-oh* and its call a short, sharp *kep*. The Alder Flycatcher hunts below the spreading branches of tall alders, sitting on a twig and darting out to catch flying insects.



YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER

- Scientific name:** *Empidonax flaviventris*
Length: 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Habitat: Bogs, swamps, wet conifer forests
Identification: Small, compact flycatcher with round head, long wings and short tail. Olive above, yellow belly and throat, olive breast, broad yellow eye ring, lower bill pale orange, two white wing bars
Similar species: All the *empidonax* flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is common in summer in the wet coniferous woodland and bogs of northern America; it migrates to the Southern Hemisphere for the winter. In the breeding season it builds a bulky nest of grass and twigs on a branch, in which it lays 3-5 white, lightly brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks and the young leave the nest around 14 days after hatching. The adult is a small, compact bird with a round head, relatively long wings and a short tail. It is olive above, with a yellow belly and throat, olive across the breast, a broad yellow eye ring, pale orange lower bill and two white wing bars. Its song is a soft, liquid *chebunk* and its call a plaintive *perwee*. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher tends to stay fairly near the ground in very dense cover and mainly eats flying insects.



ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (above)

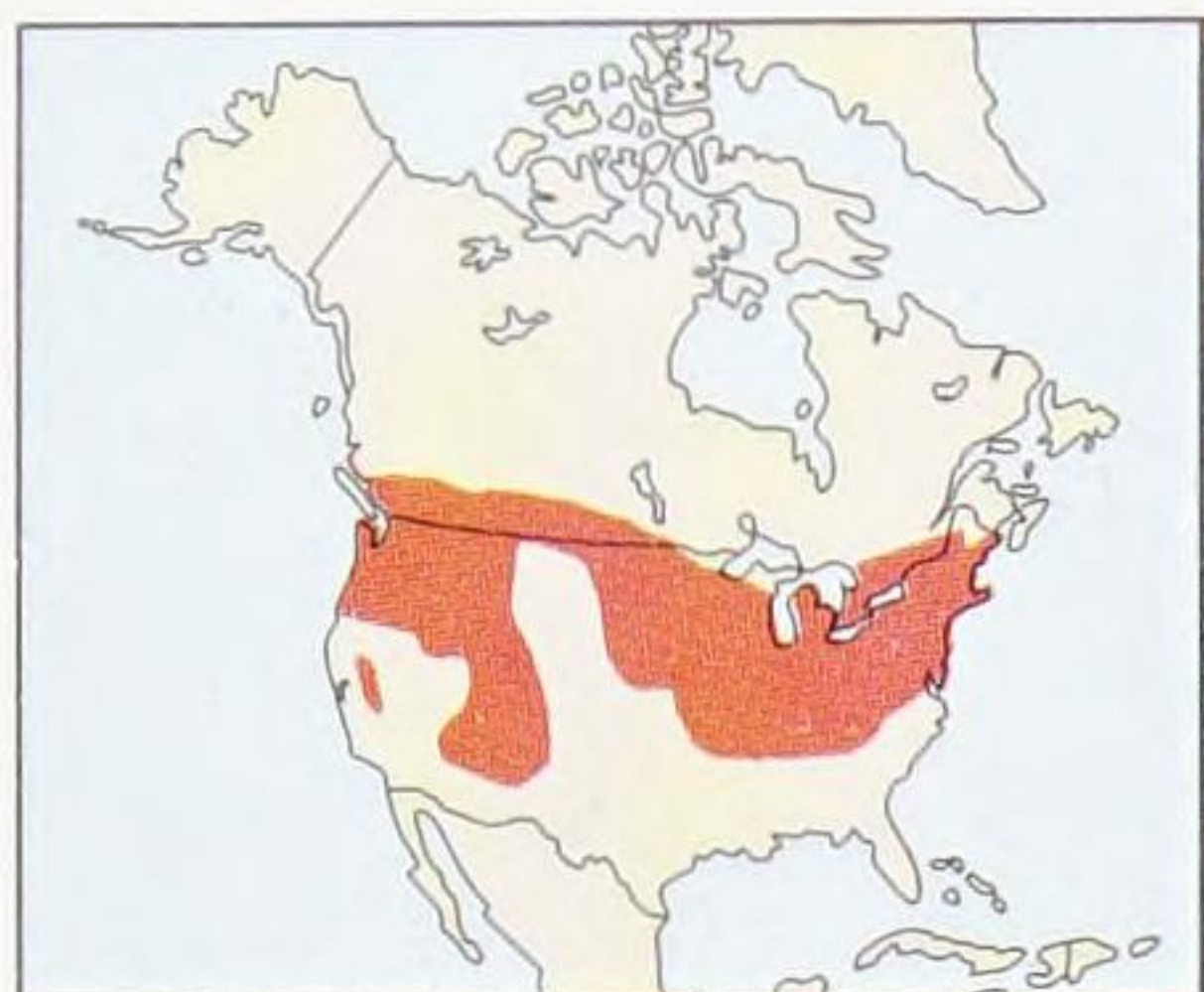
Scientific name:	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodland, swamps
Identification:	Small, long-winged flycatcher with long, broad bill, flat forehead, peak on rear crown. Olive above, grayish throat, olive wash across upper breast, white lower breast, yellow belly and undertail coverts, pale yellow eye ring, lower bill yellowish, long primaries on wings, two buffy-white wing bars
Similar species:	All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

Fairly common in swamps and woods near streams, the Acadian Flycatcher is found in summer across southeastern North America, but it migrates down to the Southern Hemisphere for the winter. In the summer breeding season it builds a nest of grass and twigs up to 25 feet above the ground, in which it lays 3-5 white, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks and the young chicks leave the nest around 14 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small bird with long wings; its head has a flat forehead and a distinct peak on the rear crown and it has a long, broad bill that is dark above and pale yellow beneath. It is olive above, with a grayish throat, an olive wash across the upper breast, a white lower breast, yellow belly and undertail coverts, and a pale yellow eye ring. The wings have long primaries and it has two buffy-white wing bars. The juvenile is brownish-olive above, edged with buffy. The song of the adult is a sharp *PEE-tsah* and its call is a loud, flat *peek*. On the breeding ground it will also give a *ti ti ti ti* call. The Acadian Flycatcher eats flying insects and berries.

"WESTERN" FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i> / <i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Habitat:	Wet coniferous forest, shaded canyons
Identification:	Small flycatcher, round head with small ragged crest, longish tail. Olive-brown above, yellow throat and belly, dusky-olive breast, white eye ring, lower bill bright yellow-orange, two whitish wing bars
Similar species:	All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

The Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) and the Cordilleran Flycatcher (*Empidonax occidentalis*) are almost identical so they are sometimes considered together as the "Western" Flycatcher. They are very difficult to tell apart in the field, differing only in their summer range and in details of their call. They both prefer wet coniferous or mixed woodland and migrate to Mexico and Central America for the winter. In the breeding season they build a cup-shaped nest of twigs and roots lined with moss, on a branch against the tree trunk, among the roots of an upturned tree, in a bank, or in the eaves of a forest cabin. It holds 3 or 4 white, brown-spotted eggs, which are incubated for up to 2 weeks. The adult is a small bird and has a round head with a small ragged crest, and a longish tail. It is olive-brown above, with a yellow belly and throat, dusky-olive across the breast, a white eye ring, bright yellow-orange lower bill and two white wing bars. Its song is a series of notes, including a sharp *tsip*, a slurred *tsuweeat*, and quick *ptik*. The female's call is a sharp *seet*. The Pacific-slope male's call is *psee-yeet*, the Cordilleran male's a two-note *pit peet*. Both the Pacific-slope Flycatcher and the Cordilleran Flycatcher mainly eat flying insects.



WILLOW FLYCATCHER *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Wet brushy areas, mountain pastures, willow thickets
Identification:	Small, long-winged flycatcher with large, broad bill, flat forehead and distinct peak at rear of crown. Either olive-gray or olive-brown above, white throat, olive-gray-brown wash across upper breast, whitish lower breast, belly and undertail coverts, indistinct pale eye ring, longish primaries on wings, two whitish wing bars
Similar species:	All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

Almost identical to the Alder, the Willow Flycatcher is found in summer in brushy thickets near bogs, but also in pasture and mountain meadows. Its range extends across northern America, but spreads further south than that of the Alder. In the breeding season the Willow builds a neat but loose-woven nest of grass and bark not far above the ground in an upright fork of a low bush, in which it lays 3 or 4 white eggs, which are often spotted with brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks and the young leave the nest about 14 days after hatching. The adult is a small bird with long wings and tail; its head has a flat forehead with a distinct peak on the rear crown and it has a large, broad bill. It has two color variations: eastern birds are olive-gray above, with a white throat, olive-gray wash across the upper breast, a whitish lower breast, belly and undertail coverts, and an indistinct pale eye ring; birds in the northwest have darker heads and are browner. The wings of both have longish primaries and two whitish wing bars. Its song is an explosive *fitz-bew* and its call a sharp *phwit*. The Willow Flycatcher eats flying insects.

HAMMOND'S FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Habitat:	Mountainous coniferous forest
Identification:	Small, compact, short-tailed flycatcher with small dark bill, long primaries on wings. Olive-gray above, whitish-gray throat, olive-gray wash across breast, pale yellow belly and undertail coverts, thin white eye ring, two narrow white wing bars
Similar species:	All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

Common during the summer in the west, in mature coniferous forests at high altitudes, Hammond's Flycatcher migrates south to northern Mexico and Central America to spend the winter. In the breeding season it arrives at its nesting site early in the year and builds a very carefully constructed nest of bark, roots and plant fibers, situated up to 60 feet above the ground on the horizontal branch of a conifer. The female lays 3-5 white eggs, which are incubated for around 2 weeks; the young chicks leave the nest around 18 days after hatching. The adult is a small, compact bird with a relatively short tail, a small dark bill and long primary feathers on the wing. It is olive-gray above, with a whitish-gray throat, an olive-gray wash across the breast, a pale yellow belly and undertail coverts, a thin white eye ring, and two narrow white wing bars. In fall, it tends to be more olive above and its belly is a somewhat brighter yellow. Its song is a low-pitched *sweep-tsweep*, rising on the last syllable and its call a high *peep*. Hammond's Flycatcher often sits in the highest branches of a conifer tree, flicking its wings and tail vigorously, before darting out quickly to snap up a passing bug or insect. It then returns to its perch to wait for another meal to pass by.

LEAST FLYCATCHER *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous woods, parks
Identification:	Small, compact, short-winged flycatcher with short triangular bill, large head, short narrow tail. Olive above, whitish throat, gray wash across breast, pale yellow belly and undertail coverts, bold white eye ring, lower bill pale, two buffy-white wing bars
Similar species:	All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

Fairly common in the east but less so in the west, the Least Flycatcher is found in summer across northern America in deciduous woods, orchards and parks - in fall it migrates to the Southern Hemisphere for the winter. In the summer breeding season it builds a nest of stems and plant fibers up to 60 feet above the ground on a horizontal branch, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks and the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 14 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small, compact bird with fairly short wings; it has a large head and a short triangular bill that is dark above and mostly pale beneath. It is olive above, with a whitish throat, a gray wash across the breast, a very pale yellow belly and undertail coverts, a bold white eye ring and two buffy-white wing bars. The wing bars of the juvenile are rather more buffy, but it is otherwise like the adult. The song of the adult is a snappy *CHE-bek* and its call a dry *whit*. The Least Flycatcher eats flying insects and berries.

DUSKY FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>
Length:	5¾ inches
Habitat:	Open woodland, mountain brush, aspen groves
Identification:	Small, short-winged flycatcher, dark bill with orange beneath at base, longish tail. Gray-olive above, whitish throat, pale olive-gray wash across upper breast, pale yellowish beneath, narrow white eye ring, two narrow white wing bars
Similar species:	All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers are very alike and mainly told apart by habitat and song

The Dusky Flycatcher is common in open mature woodland with brushy undergrowth across much of the west during the summer, and migrates south to Mexico for the winter. In the breeding season it builds a neat nest of twigs and plant fibers only around 7 feet above the ground in the crotch of a shrub or small tree, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks and the young leave the nest around 18 days after hatching. The adult is a small, relatively short-winged bird with a longish tail, and a dark bill with the lower mandible orange at the base and becoming dark at the tip. It is gray-olive above, pale yellowish beneath, with a whitish throat, a pale olive-gray wash across the upper breast and has a narrow white eye ring and two narrow white wing bars. Its song is a staccato *se-lip churp treep* and its call a soft, high *wit*. The Dusky Flycatcher is almost identical to Hammond's Flycatcher, but generally prefers lower altitudes. It eats flying insects.



OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:	<i>Contopus borealis</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous forests, bogs
Identification:	Large, sturdy flycatcher with pointed wings and short tail. Dark brown-gray above, olive-gray flanks almost meeting across breast, throat and belly dusky white, white downy tufts on lower back
Similar species:	Coloring is distinctive

In the coniferous forests and bogs of the north and northwest, the Olive-sided Flycatcher is fairly common in summer, and it is also seen across much of America as it migrates south to spend the winter in the Southern Hemisphere. In its nesting area it builds a shallow cup of twigs, stalks and roots high above the ground in a tree - usually a conifer. It lays 3 or 4 creamy-white to buff eggs, blotched brown-gray at the larger end, which are incubated for about 1-2 weeks. The adult is a large, sturdy bird with pointed wings and short tail. It is dark brown-gray above, with olive-gray flanks almost meeting across the breast, and a dusky white throat and belly. Its distinctive white downy tufts on the lower back behind the wing are not always visible. The Olive-sided Flycatcher establishes a hunting perch high above the ground in a tall conifer and flies out to catch passing insects; it does not eat anything without wings.



WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE

Scientific name:	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Open woodlands, wooded canyons, rivers
Identification:	Medium-size, slender flycatcher with long pointed wings and long tail. Dark olive-gray above, lighter breast and sides, pale yellowish chin and belly, two pale buff wing bars
Similar species:	Eastern Wood-Pewee is almost identical, only identified by range. All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers also look very similar, but generally have pale eye ring

A rather plain bird, the Western Wood-Pewee is common in summer in wooded canyons and riversides throughout western North America; it migrates further south for the winter. In the nesting season it builds a tight cup of stems and plant matter on a horizontal branch up to 20 feet above the ground in a tree. It lays 3 or 4 creamy-white, spotted eggs, which are incubated for about 1-2 weeks by the female; the young leave the nest around 15-19 days after hatching. The adult is a medium-size, slender bird with long pointed wings and long tail. It is dark olive-gray above, with a lighter breast and sides, a pale yellowish chin and belly, and two pale buff wing bars. The Western Wood-Pewee establishes a hunting perch high above the ground on the exposed edge branches of a tree and flies out to catch passing insects. About half its diet consists of flies, but it also eats berries.





EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE

Scientific name:	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Woodlands
Identification:	Medium-size, slender flycatcher with long pointed wings and long tail. Dark olive-gray above, lighter breast and sides, pale yellowish chin and belly, two whitish wing bars
Similar species:	Western Wood-Pewee is almost identical, only identified by range. All the <i>empidonax</i> flycatchers also look very similar, but generally have pale eye ring

Almost identical to the Western, the Eastern Wood-Pewee can be safely identified by range. It is common in summer in woodland throughout eastern North America; it migrates further south for the winter. In the breeding season it builds a tight nest of stems and plant matter on a horizontal branch up to 20 feet above the ground in a tree. It lays 3 or 4 creamy-white, spotted eggs, which are incubated for about 1-2 weeks by the female; the young leave the nest around 15-19 days after hatching. The adult is a medium-size, slender bird with long pointed wings and long tail. It is dark olive-gray above, with a lighter breast and sides, a pale yellowish chin and belly, and two whitish wing bars. The Eastern Wood-Pewee perches high above the ground on the exposed branches of a tree near a clear area for foraging, and flies out to catch passing insects. About half its diet consists of flies, but it also eats berries.

phoebe (希神) 月神 = Artemis, Diana. [fi'bi] (詩) 月亮
 phebe 燕雀類的小鳥 (背羽暗綠而胸呈色)
 Phoebus (希神) 太陽神 [fi'bas] (詩) 太陽

EASTERN PHOEBE

- Scientific name:** *Sayornis phoebe*
Length: 7 inches
Habitat: Along streams, suburbs near water
Identification: Slender, long-winged, long-tailed flycatcher, with rounded head. Brownish-gray above, darker on head, wings and tail, white beneath, pale olive wash on sides and breast. In early fall has pale yellow wash on belly
Similar species: Distinguished from pewees by all-dark bill, lack of distinct wing bars, habit of wagging tail up and down

The Eastern Phoebe spends the summer in the woodlands and open suburbs of east and central North America, and the winter in the far south and down into Mexico. Its nest is a cup of mud and moss, lined with soft down and firmly attached on a cliff ledge over water, under a bridge, or on a building. The female lays 3-8 white eggs, sometimes faintly spotted with brown, which are incubated for 2-3 weeks. The young leave the nest after about 16 days to make way for a second brood - there is sometimes even a third. The adult bird is slender, with long wings, a long tail and a rounded head. Its plumage is brownish-gray above - darker on the head, wings and tail - and white beneath, with a pale olive wash on the sides and breast. Early fall birds have a pale yellow wash on the belly and faint wing bars. The juvenile is browner with a dark cinnamon rump and two buff wing bars, but soon gains its adult plumage. The Eastern Phoebe often perches on low branches over streams, wagging and fanning its tail. It eats insects and spiders, which it captures in flight.



SAY'S PHOEBE

- Scientific name:** *Sayornis saya*
Length: 7½ inches
Habitat: Dry open areas, canyons, cliffs
Identification: Slender, long-winged, long-tailed flycatcher, with smallish head. Gray-brown above, darker on wings, black tail, pale gray-brown breast and throat, pale tawny-rust belly and undertail coverts
Similar species: Coloring is distinctive

Fairly common in dry, open areas, Say's Phoebe spends the summer on the tundra, prairie and desert of western North America, and the winter in the southwest and down into Mexico. Its nest is a platform of grass, stems and wool, on a high, sheltered ledge on a cliff or building, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs that are incubated by the female for about 2 weeks; the young leave the nest after about 15 days. The adult bird is slender, with long wings, a long tail and a relatively small head. Its plumage is gray-brown above - darker on the wings - with a black tail, a pale gray-brown breast and throat, and a pale tawny-rust belly and undertail coverts. The juvenile is browner with two cinnamon wing bars, but soon gains its adult plumage. Say's Phoebe perches on bushes, boulders and fences, wagging its tail. It mainly eats insects, which it captures in flight, but will turn to berries in cold weather when insects are scarce.





BLACK PHOEBE

Scientific name:	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Near water in woodland, parks and suburbs
Identification:	Slender, long-winged, long-tailed flycatcher, with peaked head. Slate-black except for white belly and undertail coverts
Similar species:	Coloring and habits distinctive

Rarely found far from water, the Black Phoebe is solitary and territorial and often remains all year round in its established area - although a few juvenile, non-breeding birds do wander further

afield. Its nest is a cup of mud, moss and grass, lined with soft down and very firmly attached on a ledge, under a bridge, in the crevice of a building or among roots at the top of a bank. The female lays 3-6 white eggs, sometimes faintly spotted with brown, which are incubated for 2-3 weeks. The young are fed by both parents, but leave the nest after about 3 weeks to make way for a second brood. The adult bird is slender, with long wings, a long tail and a slightly peaked head. Its plumage is slate-black, except for a white belly and white undertail coverts. The juvenile is browner with a dark cinnamon rump and wing bars, but soon gains its adult plumage. The Black Phoebe sits very erect on low branches, wagging and fanning its tail. It eats insects, which it captures in flight.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:

Myiarchus crinitus

Length:

8 inches

Habitat:

Open woods

Identification:

Large, long-tailed flycatcher with bushy head. Dark olive gray-brown above, dark gray throat and upper breast, bright lemon-yellow lower breast, belly and undertail coverts, cinnamon-rust primaries and tail feathers, two white wing bars

Similar species:

The other *myiarchus* flycatchers are almost identical and it is difficult to tell them apart in the field. The Brown-crested Flycatcher has darker underparts, bigger bill; the Ash-throated Flycatcher is generally paler

Common in a variety of deciduous open woodland, the Great Crested Flycatcher is seen across the east in summer, but winters further south. In the breeding season it takes over a tree cavity, or old woodpecker hole, in which it builds a nest of twigs and grass up to 70 feet above the ground. The female lays 3-7 buff purple-brown-blotched eggs. These are incubated for around 2 weeks and the young leave the nest about 16 days after they have hatched. The adult is a large, long-tailed bird with a bushy head. It is dark olive-gray-brown above, with a dark gray throat and upper breast, a bright lemon-yellow lower breast and belly, and cinnamon-rust primaries. The cinnamon tail feathers are dark-tipped and it has two white wing bars. The Great Crested Flycatcher perches in the dense canopy of mature trees, catching large insects in flight - but it also eats on berries when insects are scarce.



BROWN-CRESTED FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:

Myiarchus tyrannulus

Length:

8³/₄ inches

Habitat:

Cactus country, wooded rivers, foothill canyons

Identification:

Large, long-tailed flycatcher with bushy head and heavy black bill. Brownish-olive above, white-gray throat and breast, light yellow belly, cinnamon-rust primaries and tail feathers, two white wing bars

Similar species:

The other *myiarchus* flycatchers are almost identical and it is difficult to tell them apart in the field. The Ash-throated Flycatcher has paler underparts, smaller bill; the Great Crested Flycatcher is generally darker and has all-yellow underparts

The Brown-crested Flycatcher prefers dry, arid areas and spends the summer in the saguaro desert and lower mountain woodlands of the southwest and southeast, migrating south for the winter; a few birds stay all year in western Mexico. In the breeding season it takes over an old woodpecker hole or a natural cavity in a saguaro cactus or tree, in which it builds a nest lined with hair and feathers. Its 3-5 creamy, brown-blotched eggs are incubated for around 3 weeks and the chicks leave the nest around 16 days after hatching. The adult is a large, long-tailed bird with a bushy head and a heavy black bill. It is brownish-olive above, with a white-gray throat and breast, a light yellow belly, and cinnamon-rust primaries. The cinnamon tail feathers are dark-tipped and it has two white wing bars. The Brown-crested Flycatcher feeds on large insects caught in flight, but also eats berries in colder weather when insects are hard to find.



ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER (right)

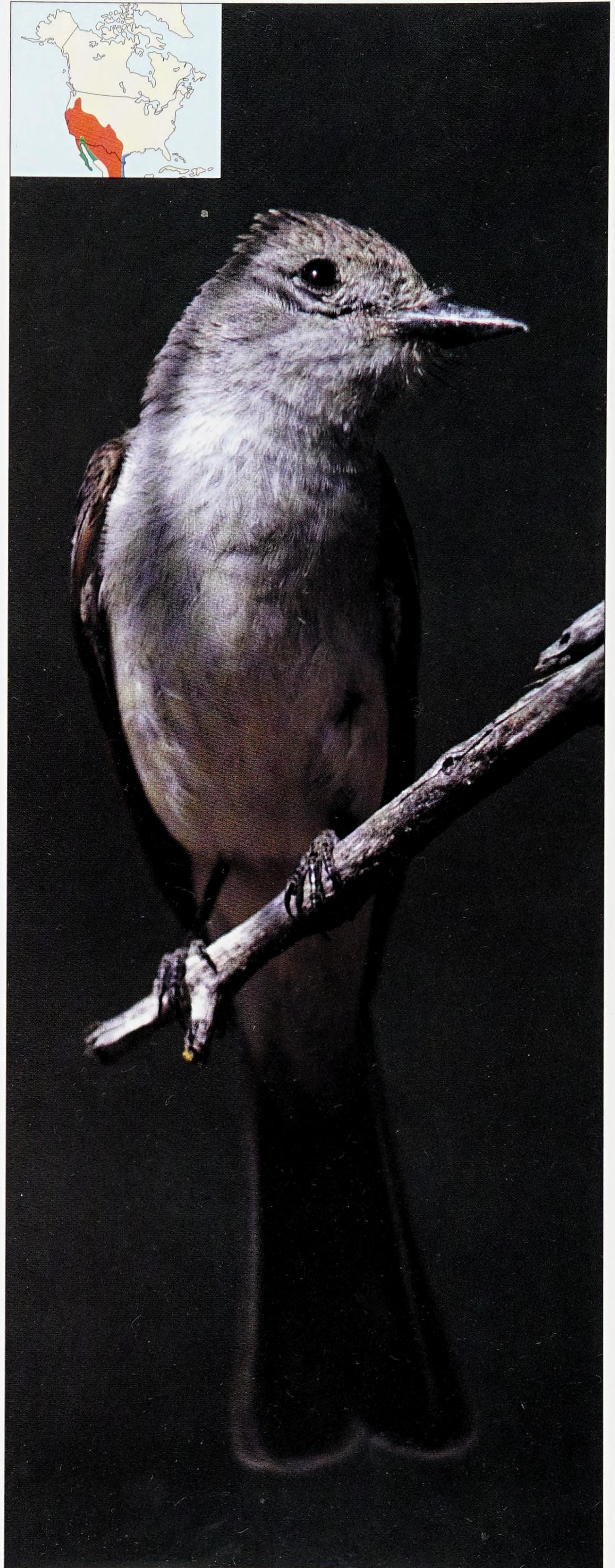
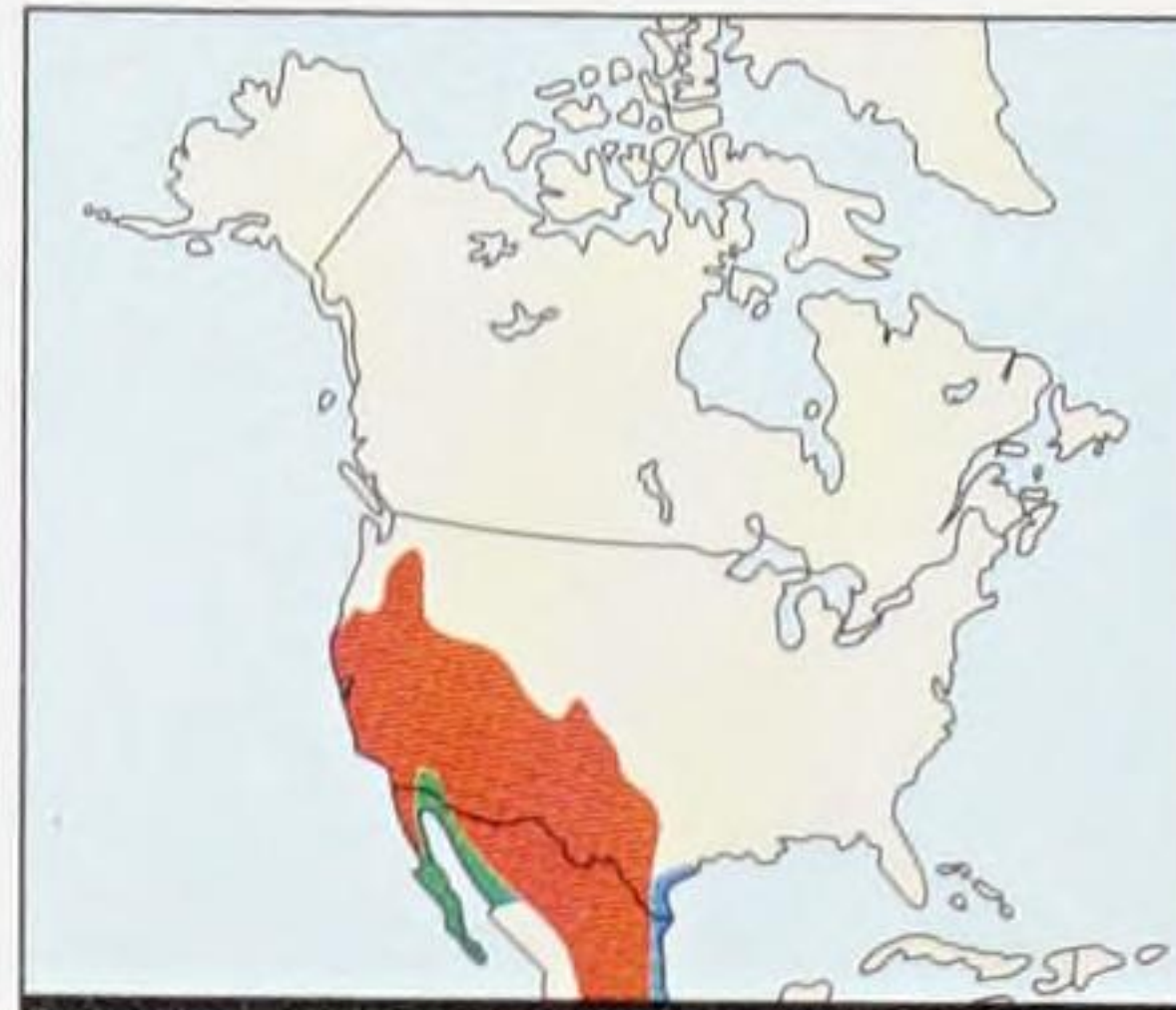
- Scientific name:** *Myiarchus cinerascens*
Length: 8½ inches
Habitat: Dry open areas
Identification: Large, long-tailed flycatcher with bushy head. Olive gray-brown above, white-gray throat and upper breast, white lower breast, light yellow belly, cinnamon-rust primaries and tail feathers, two white wing bars
Similar species: The other *myiarchus* flycatchers are almost identical and it is difficult to tell them apart in the field. The Brown-crested Flycatcher has darker underparts, bigger bill; the Great Crested Flycatcher is generally darker and has all-yellow underparts

The Ash-throated Flycatcher prefers dry and arid areas and spends the summer in the open woodland of the west, where it is quite common, migrating south for the winter; a few birds stay all year round in western Mexico. In the breeding season it takes over an old woodpecker hole or natural tree cavity, in which it builds a loose nest of grass, roots and stems to hold 3-5 creamy eggs finely streaked with brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks and the young leave the nest about 16 days after they have hatched. The adult is a large, long-tailed bird with a bushy head. It is olive gray-brown above, with a white-gray throat and upper breast, white lower breast, a light yellow belly, and cinnamon-rust primaries. The cinnamon tail feathers are dark-tipped and it has two white wing bars. The Ash-throated Flycatcher perches in the upper branches of mature trees at the edge of woodland, where it can spot and catch large insects flying in open areas nearby.

DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER

- Scientific name:** *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
Length: 7¼ inches
Habitat: Wooded mountains, canyons
Identification: Large, long-tailed flycatcher with rounded head. Olive-brown above, white-gray throat and upper breast, yellow belly and undertail coverts, rufous edges to secondaries, two white wing bars
Similar species: The other *myiarchus* flycatchers are almost identical and it is difficult to tell them apart in the field. The Ash-throated Flycatcher has a more rufous tail and paler belly; the Great Crested Flycatcher is generally darker and has all-yellow underparts

Unlike the Ash-throated, the Dusky-capped Flycatcher prefers shady oak mountain woodland, and is found in Southern Arizona and Mexico in summer, with some birds straying into western Texas. It migrates south for the winter - although a few birds stay all year round in Mexico. In the breeding season it builds a loose nest of grass, roots, stems and strips of bark in a natural tree cavity or an abandoned woodpecker hole, in which it lays 4-5 creamy eggs finely streaked with brown and purple. The adult is a large, long-tailed bird with a rounded head. It is olive-brown above, with a white-gray throat and upper breast, a yellow belly and undertail coverts, two white wing bars and a dark tail. Unlike the other *myiarchus* flycatchers, its secondary feathers have reddish edges. When foraging, the Dusky-capped Flycatcher hovers in midair over dense bushes and tree foliage and plucks insects from amongst the leaves or conifer needles.





VERMILION FLYCATCHER

Scientific name:	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Streams, wooded ponds
Identification:	Medium-size, short-tailed flycatcher with small bill. Male has bright vermilion-red head and underparts, brown-black narrow mask, back, wings and tail. Female is gray-brown above, with whitish forehead and eyebrow, black tail, white breast lightly streaked with dusky brown, pink-peach wash on belly and undertail coverts
Similar species:	Coloring and pattern unmistakable

Most flycatchers are rather drab in color, but the Vermilion Flycatcher is an exception and is very striking. It is also fairly common within its rather limited North American range, and it

commonly perches in the open, low down on a shrub or bush near water, so it can be quite easy to spot. In the summer breeding season it builds a flat nest of twigs, stems and roots lined with hair, to hold 2 or 3 whitish eggs heavily blotched with lilac-brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female bird and the young are ready to leave the nest and fend for themselves about 15 days after they have hatched. The adult is a medium-size, short-tailed bird with a small bill. The male has a bright vermilion-red head and underparts, and a brown-black narrow mask, back, wings and tail. The female is gray-brown above, with a whitish forehead and eyebrow, a black tail, a white breast lightly streaked with dusky brown, and a pink-peach wash on the belly and undertail coverts. The juvenile is similar to the female, but more spotted than streaked and it may have a pinky-yellowish belly. When the Vermilion Flycatcher is perched, it often dips its tail like a phoebe. It eats large insects, which it catches in flight.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>
Length:	13 inches
Habitat:	Open country
Identification:	Large flycatcher with very long, deeply-forked tail. Pearl gray head and back, lighter breast with salmon-pink on flanks, belly and undertail coverts, blackish wings with salmon-pink lining and reddish patch at the shoulder, black and white tail
Similar species:	Coloring and tail make adult unmistakable

Closely related to kingbirds, the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is an exotic and elegant bird. It is common in open country in the south in summer, but spends the winter in Mexico and Central America - although a few birds winter in Florida. In the breeding season it builds a shallow saucer-shape nest of twigs and grass in a tree, bush or on a utility pole up to 30 feet above the ground, to hold 4-6 creamy-white eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female bird and the young leave the nest about 14 days after they have hatched. The adult is a fairly large bird with very long, deeply-forked tail, which is often twice as long as the body. It has a pearl gray head and back, a lighter breast with salmon-pink on the flanks, belly and undertail coverts, blackish wings with a salmon-pink lining and a reddish patch at the shoulder, and a black and white tail. The female has a shorter tail, as does the juvenile, which is also paler and grayer overall. The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher catches insects in flight, but also eats grasshoppers, berries and seeds.

COUCH'S KINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Tyrannus couchii</i>
Length:	9½ inches
Habitat:	Shrubs and groves of trees near water
Identification:	Long-winged, short-tailed flycatcher with thick bill and slightly notched tail. Olive-gray above, yellow beneath, white throat, gray head and breast, yellow belly, dusky brown tail
Similar species:	Almost identical to the Tropical Kingbird, which is mainly found further west

Couch's Kingbird is common in the Rio Grande valley and the southern coast in summer, but is much less numerous in winter since most birds move south during the fall to Mexico and South America. It is so similar to the Tropical Kingbird, which is mainly found further west in southern Arizona and western Mexico, that until recently they were regarded as one species. Couch's Kingbird likes native woodland trees, particularly if they are near ponds or rivers. In its breeding area, it builds a shallow cup-shaped nest of twigs, roots and grass, lined with soft fibers, up to 20 feet above the ground on the branch of a tree, in which the female lays 3-5 buffy-pink eggs, spotted with brown and lilac. The parent bird is very protective of the nesting site and will often chase away much bigger birds. The adult is a relatively long-winged, short-tailed bird with a short, heavy bill and a slightly notched tail. Its plumage is olive-gray above, with a gray head and breast, a white throat, bright yellow belly and undertail, and a dusky brown tail. The juvenile is very similar to the adult. Couch's Kingbird sits silently very high in a tree, darting out to catch passing winged insects. In colder weather, it will also eat berries.

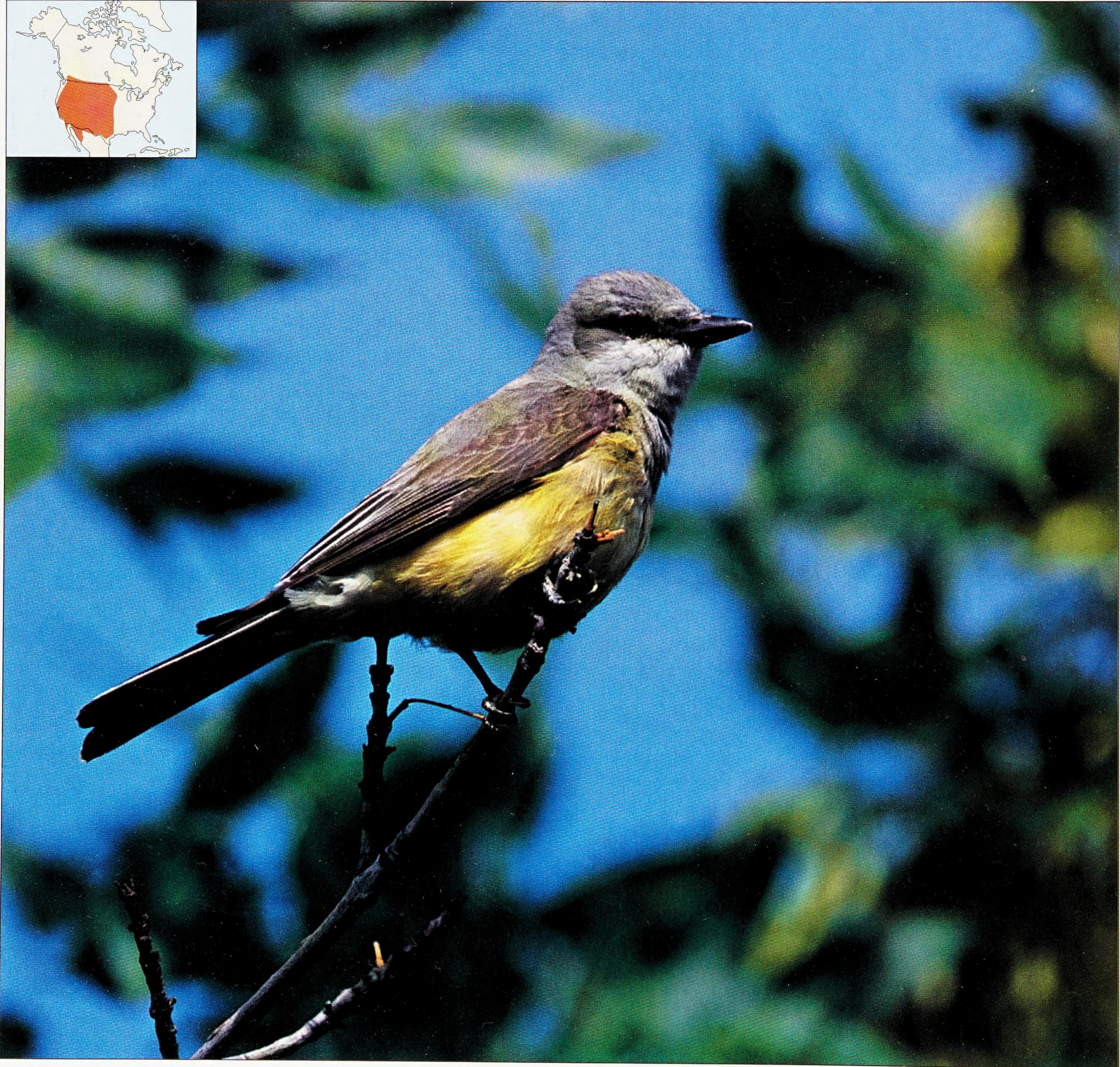


WESTERN KINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>
Length:	8¾ inches
Habitat:	Dry open country
Identification:	Long-winged, short-tailed flycatcher with heavy bill and square tail. Olive-gray above, gray head, light gray throat and breast, bright yellow belly and undertail, black tail with outer feathers edged white
Similar species:	Cassin's Kingbird lacks white edges to outer tail feathers, tail is tipped white, head and breast are darker gray

The Western Kingbird is fairly common in dry, open country in the west in summer, moving south in fall to spend the winter in South

America - although a few birds winter in southern Florida. In its breeding area, it builds a bulky but carefully constructed nest of twigs, roots, plant fibers and grass, lined with animal hair, up to 40 feet above the ground on a horizontal tree limb, or the crossarm of a utility pole. The female lays 3-6 pinky-white eggs, spotted with brown, which are incubated for up to 2 weeks; the young leave the nest about 2 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a long-winged, short-tailed bird with a heavy bill and a square tail. Its plumage is olive-gray above, with a gray head, a light gray throat and breast, bright yellow belly and undertail, and a black tail with the outer feathers edged white. The juvenile is more olive on the back and has a brownish tint on the breast and a paler belly. The Western Kingbird perches on trees, fences and utility poles, darting out to catch passing winged insects. It is common on ranches, where flying insects flock round the livestock.



EASTERN KINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Woodland clearings, forest edges
Identification:	Medium-size flycatcher with narrow pointed wings. Black head, slate-gray back, white underparts with pale gray wash on breast, black tail with white across tip, narrow strip of red feathers on crown usually not visible
Similar species:	Coloring and habits distinctive

A conspicuous and common bird, the Eastern Kingbird is seen perching on treetops, fences and utility poles in summer across much of eastern and central North America, migrating south in fall. In its breeding area, it builds a large and bulky nest of twigs, roots, straw and grass, lined with hair, up to 60 feet above the ground on the horizontal limb of a tree. The female lays 3-5 white eggs, spotted with brown, which are incubated for up to 2 weeks; the young leave the nest about 2 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a medium-size bird with narrow pointed wings. It has a black head, with a slate-gray back, white underparts with a pale gray wash on the breast, and a black tail with a white terminal band. It also has a narrow strip of red feathers on the crown, but this is not usually visible. The juvenile is brownish-gray above, with a darker breast. The Eastern Kingbird is an aggressive bird that perches out in the open and defends its territory vigorously even against much larger birds. It darts out to catch passing winged insects, but also sometimes eats berries and seeds.

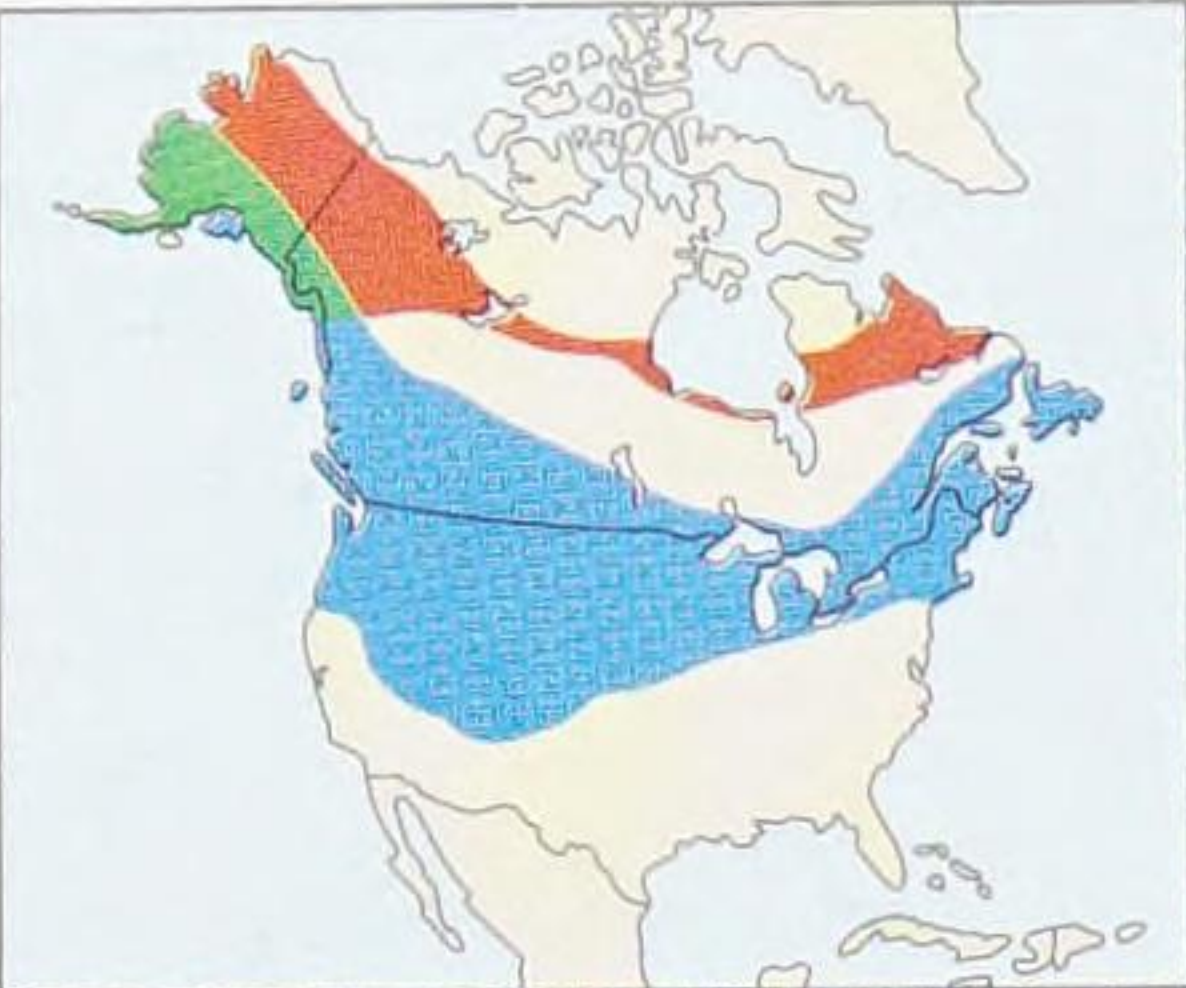


CASSIN'S KINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>
Length:	9 inches
Habitat:	Dense woods, riversides, canyons
Identification:	Long-winged, short-tailed flycatcher with heavy bill and square tail. Dark olive-gray above, white throat, dark gray head and breast, yellow belly and undertail, black tail lightly tipped white
Similar species:	Western Kingbird has white edges to outer tail feathers, paler gray on head and breast

Although it is found in a wide variety of habitats, Cassin's Kingbird prefers open areas with scattered trees. It is fairly common in hilly country in the southwest in summer, moving south in fall to winter in Mexico and South America. In its breeding area, it builds a well-hidden, bulky nest of twigs, roots and bark, lined with grass or animal hair, up to 40 feet above the ground on a horizontal tree limb. The female lays 3-5 white eggs, spotted with brown, gray and lilac, which are incubated for up to 2 weeks; the young leave the nest about 2 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a long-winged, short-tailed bird with a heavy bill and a square tail. Its plumage is dark olive-gray above, with a dark gray head and breast, a white throat, yellow belly and undertail, and a black tail lightly tipped with white. The juvenile is duller and browner. Cassin's Kingbird sits quietly high in a tree, darting out to catch passing winged insects. In colder weather, it will also eat berries.





NORTHERN SHRIKE

- Scientific name:** *Lanius excubitor*
- Length:** 10 inches
- Habitat:** Spruce and thicket at tundra edge, farmland, open country
- Identification:** Medium-size, long-winged, long-tailed predatory songbird with heavy hooked bill, smallish head. Pale blue-gray above, white with fine barring beneath, black mask, wings and tail, white throat, rump and outer tail feathers, large white wing patches
- Similar species:** Loggerhead Shrike is slightly smaller, less heavy bill, face mask meets above bill. Mockingbird lacks white side patches and undertail coverts

The Northern Shrike is a fairly uncommon bird that spends the summer on northern tundra and winters across much of central

North America - although its exact range is unpredictable from year to year. In its breeding grounds, it builds a bulky nest of twigs, lined with feathers, up to 20 feet above the ground in a conifer or bush, in which it lays 3-9 greenish-white eggs, blotched with brown. These are incubated by the female bird for just over 2 weeks; the young leave the nest about 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a medium-size bird with long wings and a long tail, and has a smallish head and a heavy, hooked bill. Its plumage is pale blue-gray above, white with fine barring beneath, with a black mask, wings and tail, a white throat, rump and outer tail feathers, and large white wing patches. The juvenile is brownish above, and has heavier barring. Although it is a songbird, the Northern Shrike behaves more like a bird of prey, sitting high in a tree and swooping down to catch mice, snakes, frogs and other birds. It kills more than it can eat, storing excess food on a thorn or in a forked twig to feed from on days when prey is scarce.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

Scientific name: *Lanius ludovicianus*

Length: 9 inches

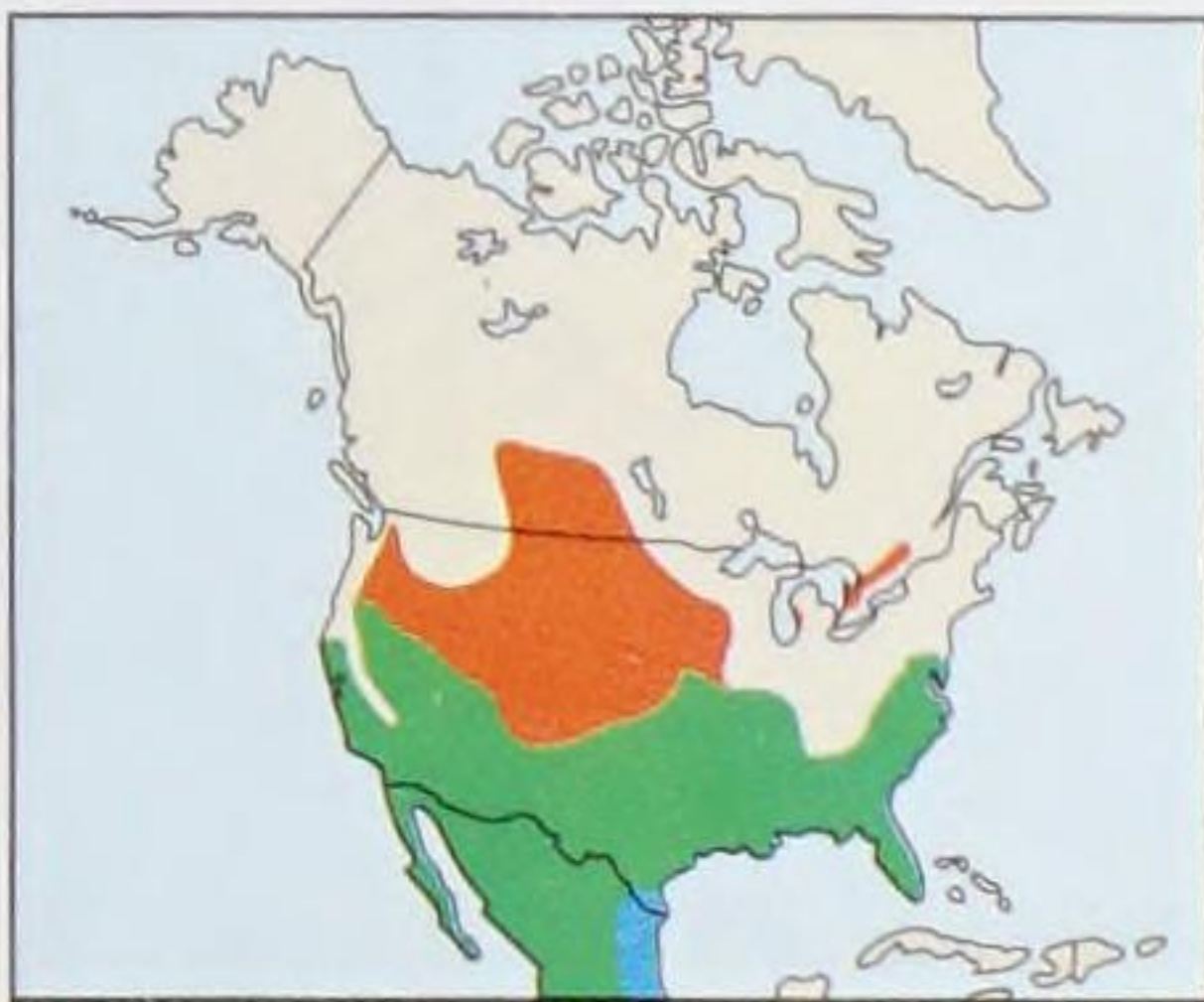
Habitat: Open country

Identification: Medium-size, long-winged, long-tailed predatory songbird with dark hooked bill, smallish head. Blue-gray above, white with very faint barring beneath, black mask, wings and tail, white throat, rump and outer tail feathers, large white wing patches

Similar species: Northern Shrike is slightly larger, has heavier bill, face mask does not meet above bill. Mockingbird lacks white side patches and undertail coverts

Fairly common over much of its range, the Loggerhead Shrike is seen all year round across southern North America, with many

birds moving further north in the summer - although its exact range does vary from year to year. In its breeding grounds, it builds a nest of twigs, well-lined with feathers, up to 20 feet above the ground in a tree or thorny bush, in which it lays 3-8 greenish-white eggs, speckled with brown. These are incubated by the female bird for just over 2 weeks; the young leave the nest about 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a medium-size bird with long wings and a long tail, and has a smallish head and a dark hooked bill. Its plumage is blue-gray above, white with very faint barring beneath, with a black mask that meets above the bill, black wings and tail, a white throat, rump and outer tail feathers, and large white wing patches. The juvenile is paler with a brownish tint above and has heavier barring. The Loggerhead Shrike feeds mainly on large insects, but will hunt mice and other birds when other food is scarce. Like the Northern Shrike it stores excess food on a thorn or barbed wire, for days when prey is scarce.





WHITE-EYED VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo griseus</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Thickets, dense undergrowth
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed songbird with short sturdy bill. Gray-olive above, white beneath, pale yellow sides and flanks, yellow "spectacles" round eyes, two whitish wing bars
Similar species:	Yellow "spectacles" are distinctive

The White-eyed Vireo is found across much of southeast America in summer, and stays all year round along the southern Atlantic Coast,

in Florida and around the Gulf Coast. Despite its fairly extensive range it can be difficult to spot, as it tends to stay in dense foliage. It builds a small nest of bark, plant material and spider web, which is suspended from the twigs of a small sapling or bush up to 9 feet above the ground. It lays 3-5 white eggs, speckled with brown-black and these are incubated by both adult birds for just over 2 weeks. The adult is a stocky, short-tailed bird with a short neck and a sturdy bill with a slightly hooked tip; at very close range it has a distinctive white iris. Its plumage is gray-olive above and white beneath, with pale yellow sides and flanks, yellow "spectacles" round the eyes, and two whitish wing bars. The juvenile is duller with gray-brown eyes. The White-eyed Vireo feeds mainly on large insects, spiders and berries.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Mixed woodlands
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed songbird with stout bill. Bright olive above, white beneath, yellow sides and flanks, white "spectacles" round eyes, two yellowish wing bars. Male has blue-gray hood, female and juvenile have partly gray hood
Similar species:	Cassin's Vireo is slightly smaller and duller, Plumbeous Vireo is entirely gray and white

The Blue-headed, Cassin's and Plumbeous vireos were once considered one species, the Solitary Vireo. The Blue-headed is common across the far north in summer, and migrates south in fall, with some birds spending the winter along the southern Atlantic Coast, in Florida and around the Gulf Coast. For a nest, it builds a woven basket of grasses and fibers, which is suspended within a fork near the end of a branch up to 9 feet above the ground. The exterior is decorated with bark, lichens and leaves and the inside lined with soft down. The female lays 3-5 creamy-white, spotted eggs, and these are incubated by both adult birds for around 12 days. The adult is a small, stocky, short-tailed bird with a stout bill. Its plumage is bright olive above and white beneath, with yellow sides and flanks, white "spectacles" round the eyes, and two yellowish wing bars. The male has a blue-gray hood, the female and juvenile have partly gray hoods. The Blue-headed Vireo forages in the mid and upper levels of trees, and feeds mainly on insects, spiders and berries.

PLUMBEOUS VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Wooded mountain canyons
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed songbird with big, stout bill. Gray above, white beneath, white "spectacles" round eyes, two white wing bars
Similar species:	Both Cassin's and Blue-headed vireos have more olive backs and yellow on sides

The Plumbeous, Blue-headed and Cassin's vireos were once considered to be one species, known as the Solitary Vireo. The Plumbeous is common inland in western North America in the summer months, living in the pine and oak woods of mountain canyons. It migrates south in the fall, with some birds spending the winter in southern Arizona. Like the Blue-headed and Cassin's, it builds a woven basket of grasses and fibers suspended within a fork near the end of a branch, which can be up to 9 feet above the ground. The exterior is camouflaged with bark, lichens and leaves and the inside is lined with soft downy material. The female lays 3-5 creamy-white, spotted eggs, and these are incubated by both adult birds for around 12 days. The adult is a small, stocky, short-tailed bird with a big, stout bill. Its plumage is gray above and white beneath, with white "spectacles" round the eyes, and two white wing bars. At the end of the summer, when its plumage is very worn, it can look very similar to the Gray Vireo - although the Gray has rather shorter wings. The Plumbeous Vireo feeds mainly on insects, spiders and berries.



WARBLING VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous woods
Identification:	Stocky songbird with short bill. Gray-olive above, whitish beneath, pale yellow on flanks, white eyebrow, no wing bars
Similar species:	Red-eyed Vireo is larger and darker, has gray crown and white eyebrow with dark borders, red eyes. Tennessee Warbler has smaller bill, more olive back

Found across much of North America in summer, the Warbling Vireo spends the winter in Mexico and Central America. It is very common and is often heard in parks and wooded gardens, as well as in deciduous woodland. In the breeding season, it builds a woven cup of plant fibers and spider web suspended from a forked branch up to 60 feet above the ground. The interior is lined with soft material and holds 3-5 white, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated by both adult birds for around 2 weeks and the young birds leave the nest about 14 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small, stocky bird with a short bill. Its plumage is gray-olive above and whitish beneath, with pale yellow on the flanks, a white eyebrow above the eye and no wing bars. The Warbling Vireo sings very sweetly from high in a tree, but hides in leaves and is hard to see. It feeds mainly on insects, spiders and berries.



BELL'S VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo bellii</i>
Length:	4¾ inches
Habitat:	Wet woods, mesquite, thickets, stream edges
Identification:	Small, long-tailed songbird with stout bill. Gray-olive above, white beneath, buffy-yellow sides, indistinct white eye ring, two narrow white wing bars
Similar species:	Plumage can be variable, so could be confused with several other vireos, but indistinct eye ring and longish tail are distinctive

Although it is an endangered species in California, Bell's Vireo is locally common in other areas of its North American summer range; it spends the winter in Mexico and further south. It is a plain and shy bird, so can be difficult to spot - although when nesting it is fearless and can be approached quite closely. Its nest is a small hanging cup woven from bark, plant material and spider web, which is suspended from a small sapling or bush up to 10 feet above the ground. It lays 3-5 white eggs, spotted with brown-black and these are incubated by both adult birds for just over 2 weeks. The young birds leave the nest after around 12-13 days, making way for a second brood. The adult is a small, relatively long-tailed bird and has a stout, curved bill with a hook at the end. Its plumage is gray-olive above and white beneath, with buffy-yellow sides, an indistinct white eye ring, and two narrow white wing bars. Although it is quite small, Bell's Vireo will take larger prey than some other vireos; it feeds on caterpillars, aphids, larvae and spiders





YELLOW-THROATED VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Oak and mixed woods
Identification:	Stocky, very short-tailed songbird with large head. Olive above, gray rump, bright yellow breast and throat, white belly, bright yellow "spectacles" round eyes, two white wing bars
Similar species:	Pine Warbler has greenish-yellow rump, streaked sides, thinner bill, less defined "spectacles", Yellow-breasted Chat is larger, with brown upperparts

Although it is fairly common in woods across the east of America during the summer months, the Yellow-throated Vireo is very hard

to spot because it stays high up in the dense foliage of the canopy. It migrates south in fall, to spend the winter in the Southern Hemisphere. In its summer breeding area, it builds a small basket-shaped nest of bark, plant material and grass, bound with spider web, which is suspended from the forked branch of a small sapling or a bush up to 60 feet above the ground. It lays 3-5 white eggs, blotched with brown-lilac, which are incubated by both adult birds for just over 2 weeks; the young fledglings leave the nest to begin fending for themselves around 14 days after they have hatched. The adult is a stocky, very short-tailed bird with a relatively large head and a thick bill. Its plumage is olive above, with a gray rump, a bright yellow breast and throat, white belly, bright yellow "spectacles" round the eyes, and two white wing bars. The juvenile is similar but is rather duller and has gray-brown eyes. The Yellow-throated Vireo forages high up in the trees, feeding mainly on insects and berries.

RED-EYED VIREO (right)

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Woodland
Identification:	Small, stocky, long-winged songbird with long bill. Gray-olive back, blue-gray crown, white eyebrow with dark borders, white beneath, darker wings and tail, no wing bars, red eyes
Similar species:	Warbling Vireo is smaller and paler

The Red-eyed Vireo is common in summer in the woodland of the east and its range spreads across North America to the northwest. In the breeding season, it builds a small, beautifully woven cup of

plant fibers and spider web suspended from a forked branch up to 60 feet above the ground in a deciduous tree. The interior is lined with soft material and holds 3 or 4 whitish eggs, lightly spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks and the young birds leave the nest about 12 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small, stocky bird with long wings and a longish, heavy bill. It has a gray-olive back and is white beneath, with a blue-gray crown, a white eyebrow with dark borders, darker wings and tail, and no wing bars. Its red eyes may be difficult to see, except at close range. The juvenile has brown eyes and fall adults may have some yellow on the flanks and undertail coverts. The Red-eyed Vireo forages high in trees, and may sing for many hours during the day. It feeds mainly on insects and berries.

HUTTON'S VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo huttoni</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Oak woodland
Identification:	Stocky songbird with thick, hooked bill. Gray-olive above, paler drab olive beneath, yellow on flanks, broken white eye ring, two white wing bars
Similar species:	Ruby-crowned Kinglet is smaller, has slimmer bill and dark area behind wing bar

Hutton's Vireo is fairly common within its limited North American range, but it moves high up in the forest canopy so may be difficult to spot. It is often mistaken for the Ruby-crowned

Kinglet, which is seen across a much wider range; the two birds are strikingly similar - particularly as the male kinglet's small red crown is often not apparent. Hutton's Vireo builds a woven cup of lichens, plant fibers and spider web suspended from a forked twig, which can be up to 35 feet above the ground. The interior is lined with soft feathers and moss and holds 3 or 4 white, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated by both adult birds for just over 2 weeks and the young birds leave the nest about 14 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small, stocky bird with a thick, hooked bill. Its plumage is gray-olive above, with paler drab olive beneath, yellow on the flanks, a white eye ring broken above the eye, and two white wing bars. Hutton's Vireo flicks its wings like a kinglet when perched. It feeds mainly on insects, spiders and berries.

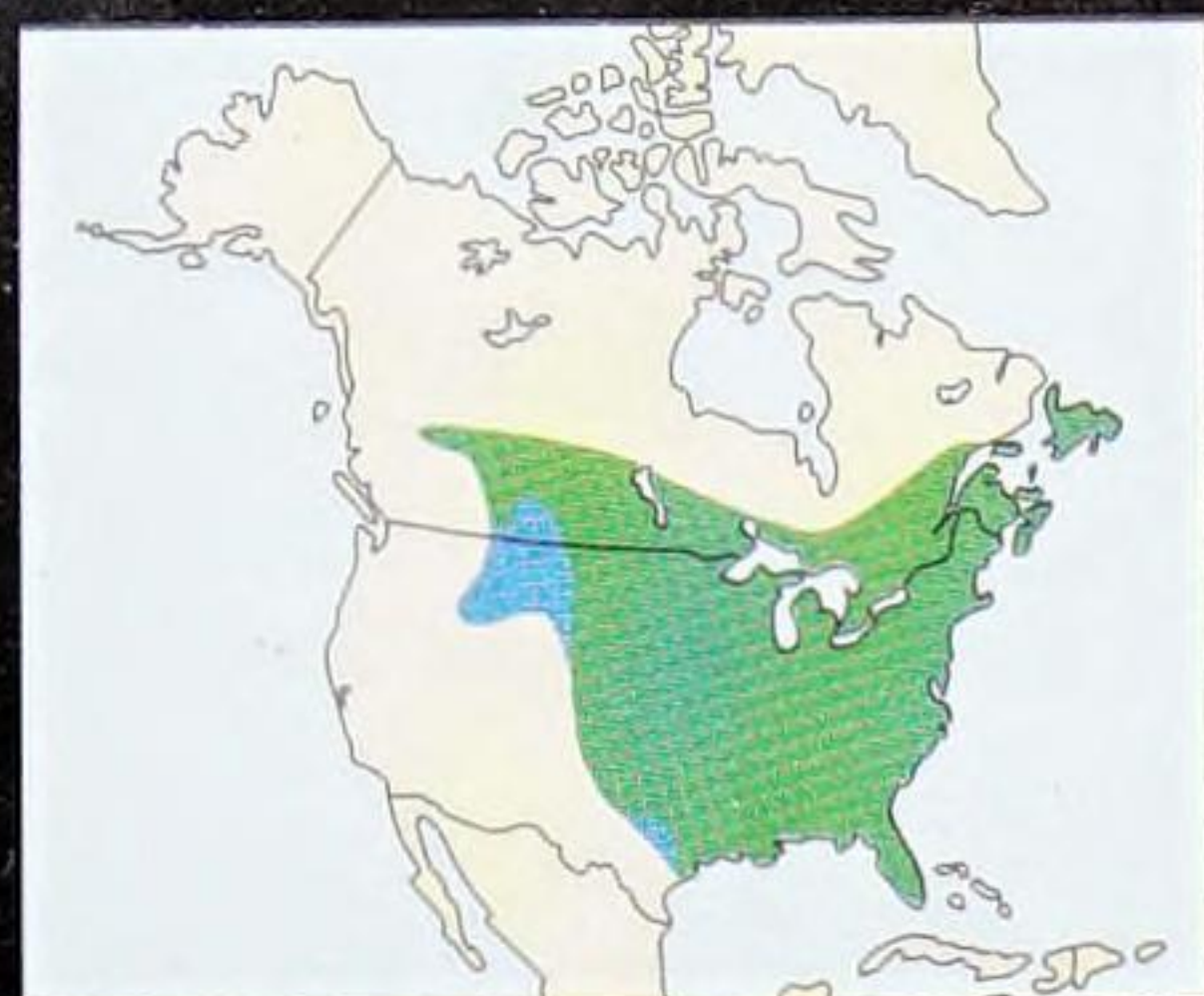
CASSIN'S VIREO

Scientific name:	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Oak and conifer woods
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed songbird with stout bill. Olive above, pale gray head, white beneath, pale yellow sides and flanks, white "spectacles" round eyes, two yellowish wing bars
Similar species:	Blue-headed Vireo is slightly bigger and brighter, Plumbeous Vireo is entirely gray and white

Once called the Solitary Vireo, and considered one species along with the Blue-headed and Plumbeous vireos, Cassin's Vireo is

common along the north Pacific Coast in summer. In fall it migrates south, with some birds spending the winter in southern Arizona and down into Mexico. In the breeding season, it builds a woven basket nest of grasses and fibers, which is suspended in a fork near the end of a branch up to 9 feet above the ground. The exterior is covered with bark, lichens and leaves and the inside lined with soft material. The female lays 3-5 creamy-white, spotted eggs, and these are incubated by both adult birds for around 12 days. The adult is a small, stocky, short-tailed bird with a stout bill. Its plumage is olive above and white beneath, with a pale gray head, pale yellow sides and flanks, white "spectacles" round the eyes, and two yellowish wing bars. Cassin's Vireo prefers oak and conifer woods and often flicks its wings when perched. It feeds mainly on insects, spiders and berries.





BLUE JAY

Scientific name:	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Length:	11 inches
Habitat:	Suburbs, parks, woodland
Identification:	Crested, broad-winged, rather short-tailed woodland bird. Blue above, gray-white underneath with black necklace, black barring on wings and tail, white patches on wings, outer feathers of tail white
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive, but often mimics the calls of other birds

Common in suburbs, woodlands and parks, the Blue Jay is found across most of eastern North America and is occasionally seen in

the northwest and west. Some birds migrate south in the fall, moving in large flocks. Like other jays, it has a harsh, strident voice and often mimics other birds - particularly the Red-shouldered Hawk. The Blue Jay builds a bulky nest of twigs, moss and leaves on a branch or in the crotch of a tree up to 50 feet above the ground, in which it lays 3-5 olive, blue or buffy eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for about 17 days and the young birds leave to fend for themselves around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult has a crest at the back of the head, broad, rounded wings and rather a short, broad tail. It is blue above, gray-white underneath with a black necklace, and has black barring on wings and tail, white patches on the wings, and white across the corners of the tail. The Blue Jay eats nuts, seeds, fruit and insects.



STELLER'S JAY

Scientific name:	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
Length:	11½ inches
Habitat:	Pine-oak woods, coniferous forests
Identification:	Crested, broad-winged, rather short-tailed woodland bird. Head, throat, chest and upper back all black, with deep blue wings, rump, tail and belly
Similar species:	The only crested jay that is all dark

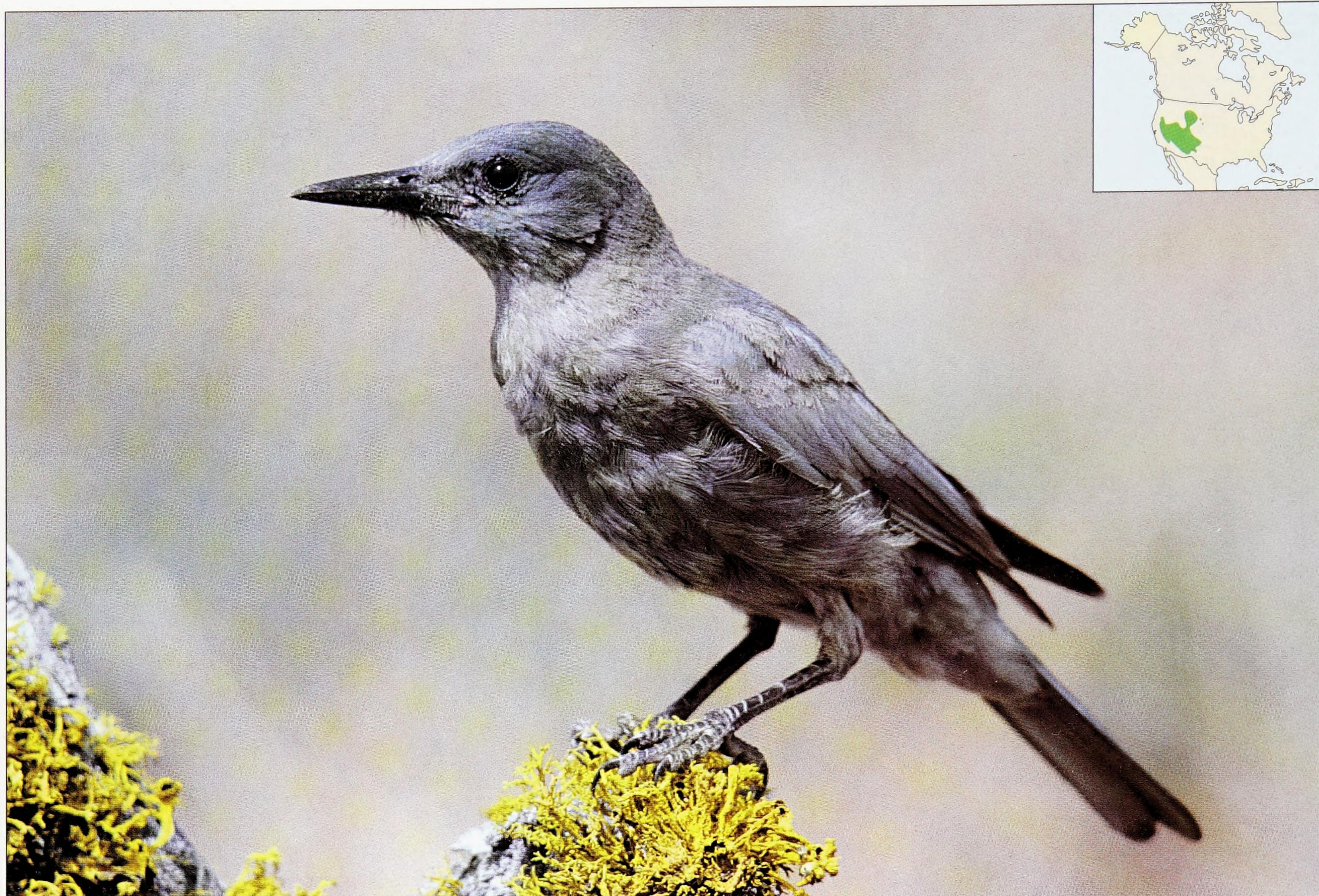
Steller's Jay is North America's largest jay and lives in dense forests - conifers in the northwest, pine and oak in the south and mixed oak and redwood in northern California. It often travels in small groups and is bright-colored and conspicuous. It prefers conifers for nesting, building a neat and sturdy bowl of twigs lined with mud on a high branch, in which it lays 3-5 greeny-blue spotted eggs that are incubated by the female alone for about 16 days. The adult has a long crest at the back of the head, broad, rounded wings and rather a short, broad tail. Its head, throat, chest and upper back are all black - although it may have paler spots and streaks on the forehead and near the eye - with deep blue wings, rump, tail and belly. Like other jays, Steller's Jay is an accomplished mimic. It is bold and aggressive and often visits bird feeders and picnic grounds, but otherwise likes to eat nuts, seeds, fruit and insects.

GRAY JAY

Scientific name:	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>
Length:	11½ inches
Habitat:	Mountain forests
Identification:	Long-tailed, short-billed woodland bird with fluffy plumage. Dark gray above, white or pale gray beneath, white forehead and face. Far north birds, brownish crown and nape; Rocky Mountain birds mostly white head, northwest coast birds, large dark crown
Similar species:	Looks rather like a very big chickadee, but much larger size is distinctive

Previously known as the Canada Jay, the Gray Jay is a familiar visitor to mountain camp sites and cabins, where it will help itself to as much food as possible - earning itself the nickname "camp-robber". It breeds very early - often when there is still snow on the ground - building a bowl-shaped nest of twigs lined with feathers or moss up to 30 feet above the ground in a tree. It lays 3-5 greeny-gray spotted eggs, which are incubated by the female alone for about 17-18 days; the young birds stay in the nest for around 2 weeks before leaving to fend for themselves. The adult is a long-tailed bird with a short bill and distinctive fluffy plumage. It is dark gray above, white or pale gray beneath, and has a white forehead and face. There are three distinct color variations; birds in the far north on the taiga have a brownish crown and nape; those in the Rocky Mountains have a mostly white head, and northwest coast birds have a large dark crown. The juvenile of all types is dark slate-gray overall, with a faint white streak like a mustache. The Gray Jay stores scraps of frozen meat and other morsels in trees, to eat when its other staples of insects, fruit, mice and birds' eggs are not available.





PINYON JAY *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>
Length:	10½ inches
Habitat:	Mountain pine woods
Identification:	Small, plain, short-tailed woodland bird with long, slender bill. Entirely gray-blue, slightly darker head, some white streaking on throat
Similar species:	The only all-blue jay

The Pinyon Jay is a very sociable bird that is usually seen in large flocks, often consisting of hundreds of birds, and inhabits the pine woods of the west. It is unusual in that its courting and breeding cycle begins much earlier than many American birds - the male and female pair up in winter and the nest is built at the end of January - often while there is still snow around. It nests in loose colonies, building a cup of twigs up to 20 feet above the ground in a small tree. The female lays 3 or 4 greeny-white, speckled eggs, which are incubated for about 16 days; the chicks are ready to leave the nest around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, short-tailed bird with a long, slender bill. It is entirely gray-blue, slightly darker on the head and with some white streaking on the throat. Juveniles are gray. The Pinyon Jay mainly eats pine nuts, which it buries in fall for use in the following winter and spring. This enables the female to sit on the nest and keep the eggs warm even though the external temperature is still so low, while the male feeds her from their stored supply. The Pinyon also eats seeds, berries, insects and the eggs and young of other birds.

WESTERN SCRUB-JAY

Scientific name:	<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>
Length:	11 inches
Habitat:	Urban areas, parks, brushland, oak and juniper woods
Identification:	Slender, long-tailed woodland bird. Gray back, blue head with white eyebrow, blue wings and tail, white throat and underparts, blue breast band
Similar species:	Florida and Island scrub-jays are similar but are restricted to specific areas - the Florida only in a small part of that state and the Island to Santa Cruz Island. The three were formerly considered one species. Mexican Jay lacks white throat and eyebrow, shape stouter

Common in the suburbs, woodlands and parks of the west, particularly coastal California, the Western Scrub-Jay is quite tame. It prefers scrub oaks and pinyon-juniper woods and is sometimes seen in small groups. It builds a nest of twigs up to 12 feet above the ground, well hidden in a small tree or dense bush, in which it lays 3-6 greenish eggs spotted with red and brown. These are incubated by the female for about 17 days and the young birds leave to fend for themselves around 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a slender, long-tailed bird with a large strong bill. It has a gray back, a blue head with a white eyebrow, blue wings and tail, white throat and underparts, and a blue breast band. Inland birds tend to be duller in color than those on the coast. The Western Scrub-Jay mainly eats insects in summer - but also likes acorns, as well as nuts, seeds and fruit.

GREEN JAY

Scientific name:	<i>Cyanocorax yncas</i>
Length:	10½ inches
Habitat:	Riverside woods, dry brushland, parks, oak groves
Identification:	Long-tailed, rather small woodland bird. Bright olive-green above, pale green beneath, black breast, crown and back of head blue, face blue and black, outer tail feathers bright yellow
Similar species:	Coloring unmistakable

A tropical species, the Green Jay is only found in North America in southern Texas, where it is common in brushy areas and woods near streams. It is a noisy and gregarious bird that often travels in small groups and like other jays it is inquisitive - so will usually allow close approach. It builds a nest of sticks on a branch up to 15 feet above the ground in a small tree or bush, in which it lays 3-5 buffy, blue or white eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for about 16 days and the young birds leave the nest around 3-4 weeks after hatching. The adult is rather a small bird with a long tail. Its plumage is bright olive-green above, pale green beneath, with a black breast, blue on the crown and back of the head, blue and black markings on the face, and bright yellow outer tail feathers. The Green Jay eats seeds, fruit and insects.



MEXICAN JAY

Scientific name:	<i>Aphelocoma ultramarina</i>
Length:	11½ inches
Habitat:	Pine-oak woods, mountain canyons
Identification:	Stoutish, long-tailed woodland bird. Gray back, blue-gray head, rump, wings and tail, pale gray underparts
Similar species:	Scrub-jays are similar but have white throat and eyebrow, blue breast band, more slender shape

Although in America it is restricted to mountain canyons and oak woods near the Mexican border, the Mexican Jay is quite common within these areas. It was previously known as the Gray-breasted Jay. It lives in clans of 10-15 birds that are all closely related, and in the breeding season it builds a nest of twigs lined with horsehair up to 6 feet above the ground, hidden in a small tree or dense bush. The female lays 4 or 5 green eggs, which are incubated for about 17 days, but other members of the clan help to feed and rear the chicks until they are ready to leave the nest around 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a heavily-built, long-tailed bird with a dark, strong bill. It has a gray back, blue-gray head, rump, wings and tail, and pale gray underparts. Juveniles have pale bills, which darken as they mature. The Mexican Jay has a diet mainly of acorns, but it also eats insects and takes eggs and chicks from the nests of other birds.





CLARK'S NUTCRACKER

Scientific name:	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>
Length:	12 inches
Habitat:	Mountain coniferous forests
Identification:	Long-winged, short-tailed woodland bird with long, pointed bill. Mostly light gray, black wing with large white wing patch on trailing edge, black tail with white outer feathers, white face and belly
Similar species:	Gray Jay has much smaller bill and lacks white on wings and tail

A mountain bird, Clark's Nutcracker is a familiar visitor to camp sites, picnic spots and cabins where it comes to seek handouts or to

steal scraps. Although it normally lives far inland, it sometimes ranges much further afield and can reach the Pacific coast in lean years when pine nuts - its staple food - are scarce. It breeds quite early in the year, building a bulky bowl of twigs lined with grass in a conifer. The female lays 2-6 green, brown-spotted eggs, which are incubated for about 17 days by both parent birds; the chicks leave the nest to fend for themselves around 4 weeks after they have hatched. The adult has long wings, a short tail, and a long, pointed bill. It is mostly light gray, with black wings that have a large white wing patch on the trailing edge, a black tail with white outer feathers, and a white face and belly. Clark's Nutcracker flies with slow, deep wingbeats, rather like a crow. It mainly eats pine nuts, which it stores in fall for the following winter and spring. It also eats juniper berries, and insects in summer.

BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE

Scientific name:	<i>Pica pica</i>
Length:	19 inches
Habitat:	Open woodlands, thickets, suburbs, trees along streams
Identification:	Large, long-tailed open-country bird with stout black bill and broad wings. Black head, back and breast, iridescent green-blue on wings and tail, white shoulders and belly, white wing patches in flight
Similar species:	Very similar Yellow-billed Magpie is slightly smaller and has yellow bill, but is only seen in a tiny part of California

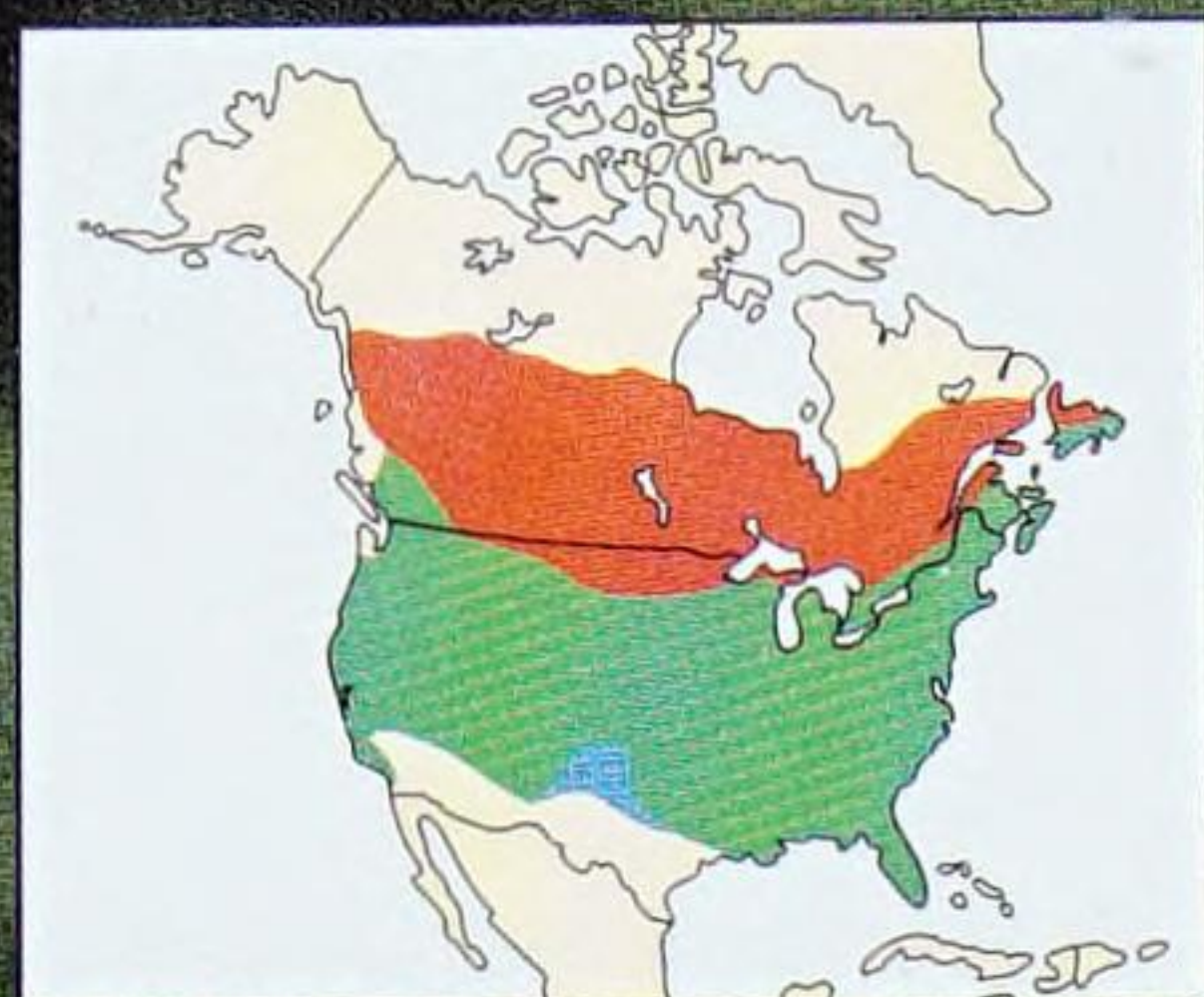
Often seen in pairs or small flocks walking on the ground in the open, the Black-billed Magpie is very common across most of western North America. It generally nests in pairs - but also sometimes in loose colonies - building a very large, bulky nest of sticks in a tree, which is covered with a thorny dome of twigs to protect the eggs and chicks. The female lays 7-9 greenish-buff, brown-spotted eggs, which are incubated for about 17 days; details of the nestling period are not known. The adult is a large bird with a very long tail, a stout black bill and broad wings. It has a black head, back and breast, iridescent green-blue on the wings and tail, white shoulders and belly, and shows white wing patches in flight. The Black-billed Magpie eats insects and carrion, but is also known to steal the eggs and chicks of other birds.



FISH CROW

Scientific name:	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
Length:	15½ inches
Habitat:	Tidal marshes, rivers, swamps
Identification:	Large, short-tailed crow with powerful bill and broad wings. All black
Similar species:	American Crow is slightly larger, but can only be distinguished by its call. Fan-shaped tail and heavier bill distinguish Common and Chihuahuan ravens from crows. Blackbirds are much smaller

Slightly smaller than the American Crow, the Fish Crow is only found in the southeast, spreading along the Atlantic coast to the north and the Gulf coast to the west. It is also seen inland, but only along rivers since it prefers to be near water. In winter it is sometimes seen in flocks with the American Crow. The Fish Crow generally breeds in loose colonies, building a nest of sticks and twigs in a tree near a river or marsh. The female lays 4 or 5 greenish, brown-spotted eggs, which are incubated for about 17 days; the young are ready to leave the nest and fend for themselves within about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a large bird with a short tail, a powerful bill and broad wings. Its plumage is entirely black and its call is a nasal, high-pitched *ca-hah*, with the second syllable lower. The Fish Crow forages in the shallows for fish, crabs, shrimp and crayfish, but will also eat carrion.



AMERICAN CROW *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>
Length:	17½ inches
Habitat:	Open country, cities
Identification:	Large, short-tailed crow with powerful bill and broad wings. All black
Similar species:	Fish Crow is slightly smaller, but can only be distinguished by its call. Fan shaped tail and heavier bill distinguish Common and Chihuahuan ravens from crows. Blackbirds are much smaller

The largest of the crows, the American Crow is very common across most of America, also ranging further north and up into Canada during the summer months. Once a mainly woodland bird, it has adapted to changing circumstances over the years and now also lives on farmland and in urban areas. It generally breeds in rather loose colonies - which can consist of hundreds of birds - building a well-constructed nest of sticks lined with plant fibers, in a tree. The female lays 3-6 greenish, brown-splotched eggs, which are incubated for about 17 days; the young are ready to leave the nest and start fending for themselves in about 5 weeks. The adult is a very large bird with a short tail, a powerful bill and broad wings. Its plumage is black and its call is a harsh *caw*. The American Crow is both resourceful and intelligent and has developed a communication system to alert others in the colony of approaching danger and to pass on the position of new food supplies. It is a predator that will eat almost anything - including the eggs and chicks of other birds.

CHIHUAHUAN RAVEN

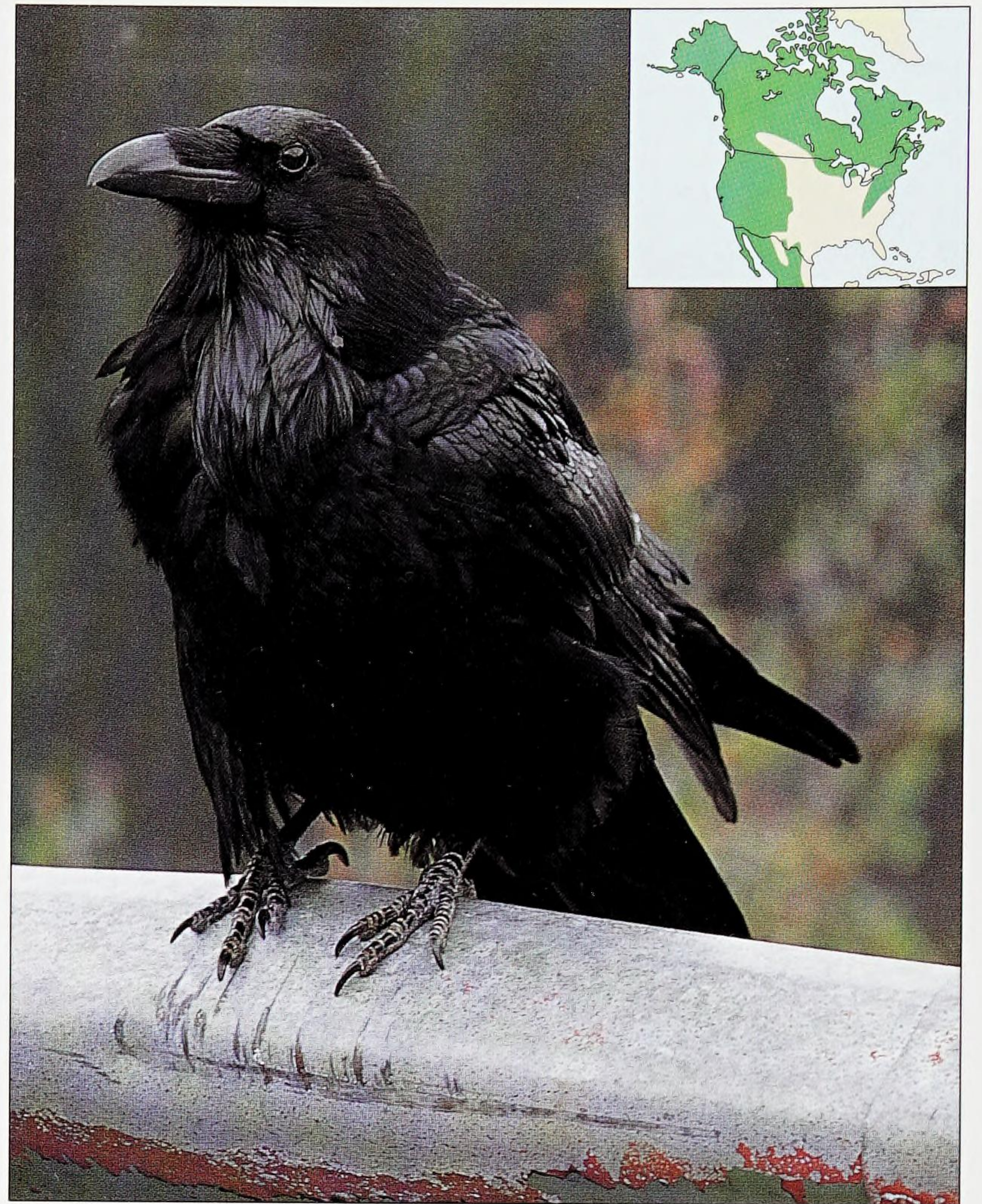
Scientific name:	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>
Length:	19½ inches
Habitat:	Desert, scrub grassland
Identification:	Medium-size, long-winged raven with heavy bill and deep voice. All black
Similar species:	Common Raven is slightly larger, and has longer bill and different call. Fan-shaped tail and heavier bill distinguish Common and Chihuahuan ravens from crows. Blackbirds are much smaller

The Chihuahuan Raven is only found in southern grasslands and desert areas, with its range just extending into southwest Kansas and southeast Colorado. It is very gregarious, gathering in flocks of hundreds of birds after the breeding season and soaring high in the sky in group displays of swooping, diving and tumbling. It builds a large platform nest of sticks, sometimes incorporating barbed wire, which is lined with animal fur and placed up to 40 feet above the ground in a tree or mesquite or on a utility pole. The female lays 4-8 greenish eggs, sometimes blotched with brown, which are incubated for about 3 weeks by both parents. The adult is medium-size between the American Crow and the Common Raven, with long wings and a heavy bill. Its plumage is entirely black, but the neck feathers are white at the base - although usually obscured - so it was once known as the White-necked Raven. Its call is a flat, drawn out *craaaaaak*, higher pitched than that of the Common Raven. The Chihuahuan Raven will eat a wide variety of food, including carrion, rodents, insects and the eggs and chicks of other birds

COMMON RAVEN

Scientific name:	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Length:	24 inches
Habitat:	Mountains, desert, forest
Identification:	Large, long-winged raven with long heavy bill and low, resonant voice. All black
Similar species:	Chihuahuan Raven is slightly smaller, and has shorter bill and different call. Fan shaped tail and heavier bill distinguish Common and Chihuahuan ravens from crows. Blackbirds are much smaller

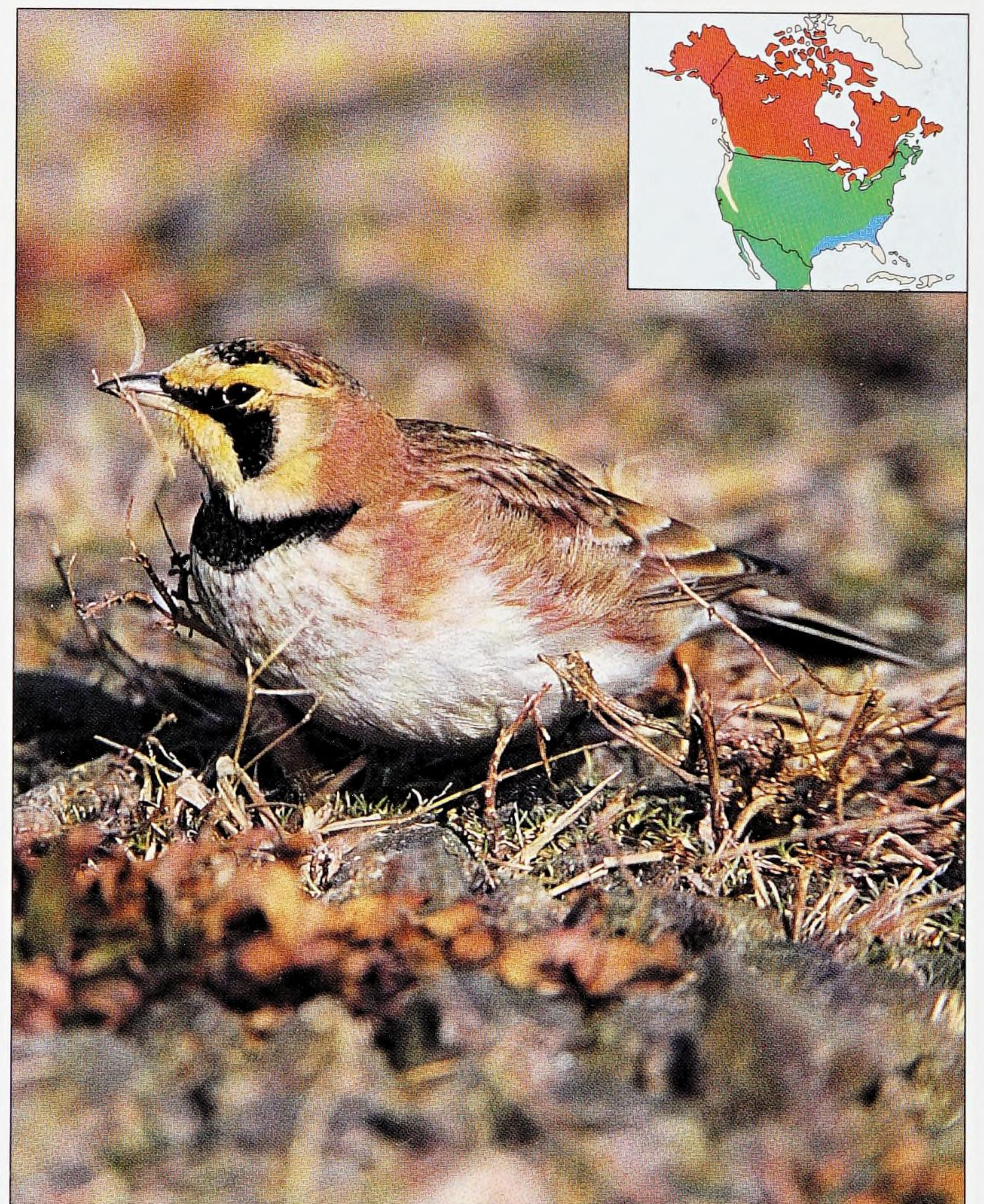
The most widespread raven in North America, the Common Raven is numerous in the north and west and spreading in the east - and is moving into cities in some areas. Pairs of birds mate for life and are often seen soaring high in the sky. It builds a large, loose nest of sticks and branches, which is lined with soft animal fur or wool, and placed high in a tree or on a cliff face. The female lays 4-7 green eggs, spotted with brown, which are incubated for up to 3 weeks by the female; the chicks are ready to leave the nest about 5-6 weeks after hatching. The adult is a large bird, with long wings and tail and a long heavy bill. Its plumage is entirely black, with a thick, heavy neck ruff. Its call is a low, resonant *craaak*, deeper than that of the Chihuahuan Raven, but it also makes a variety of other noises including screams, whistles and a melodious *kloo-klok*. The Common Raven is a resourceful and intelligent bird, which learns new behaviour in different situations. It eats carrion, rodents, insects and the eggs and chicks of other birds, and often feeds at garbage dumps.

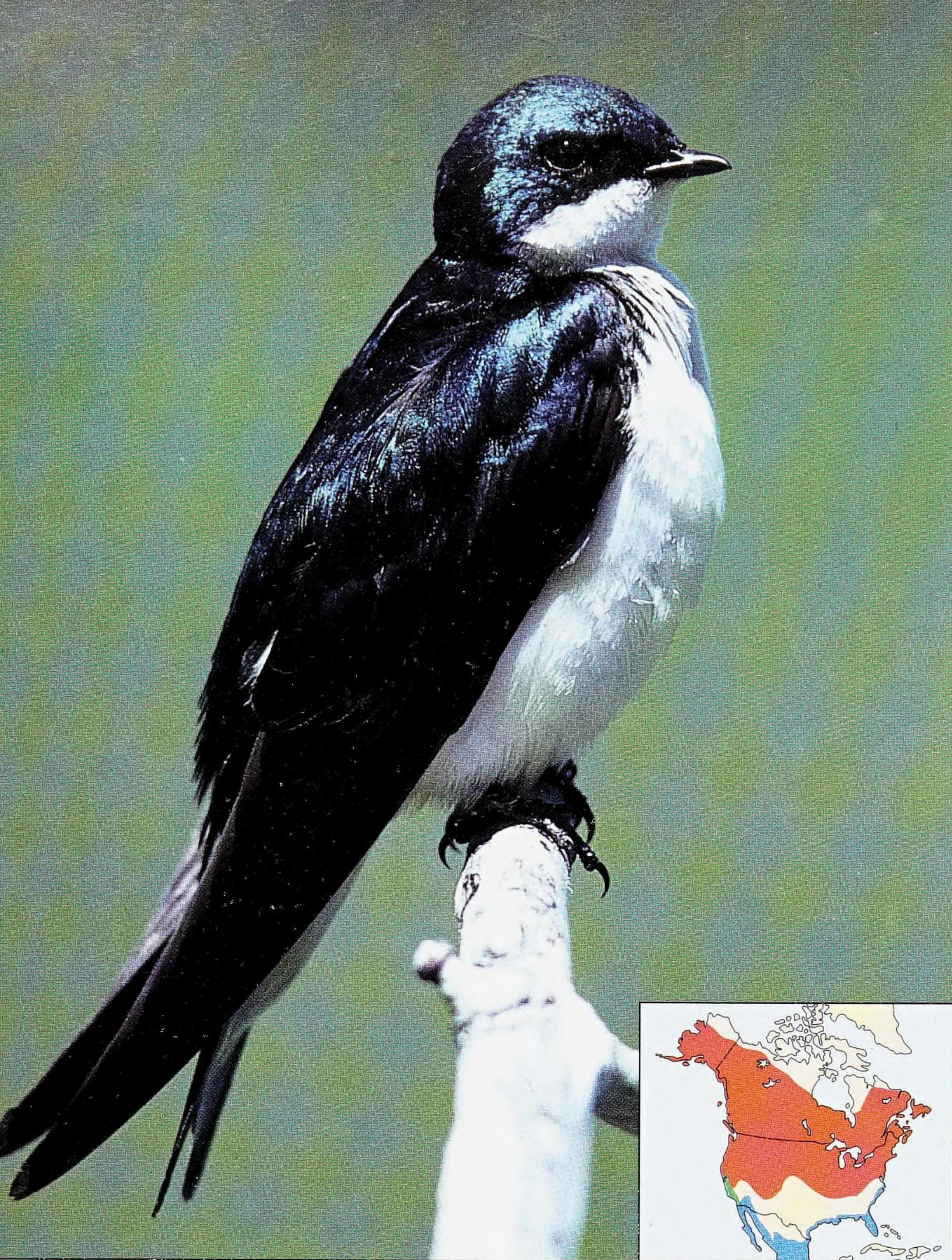


HORNED LARK

Scientific name:	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Barren ground
Identification:	Slender, long-winged open-country songbird with short, stout bill and square tail. Pale brown above, white below, yellow wash on face and throat, black bib and mustache marks, small black horns, black tail feathers with white outer edges
Similar species:	Juvenile lacks horns and strong face markings and is streaked below, so can be confused with Sprague's Pipit

The only native North American lark, the Horned Lark is widespread from coast to coast, and spreads right up to the far north in summer. It prefers open ground with low vegetation - dirt fields or short grass, gravel ridges, dunes, airports - and in winter it becomes much more conspicuous as it gathers in large flocks of thousands of birds. In the breeding season it does not build a nest, but lays its 3-5 whitish, dark-spotted eggs in a sheltered depression in the ground lined with grass. These are incubated by the female for only around 11 days, and the young birds leave the nest a further 11 days after hatching. The adult is a slender, long-winged bird with a short, stout bill and a square tail. Its plumage is pale brown above, white below, with a yellow wash on the face and throat, a black bib and mustache marks, small black horns, and a black tail with a paler center and white edges. The female is duller than the male and the juvenile lacks the horns, has indistinct whitish face markings, and is streaked below. The Horned Lark walks or runs on the ground, moving in an erratic way as it forages for grain, seeds, insects and spiders.





TREE SWALLOW

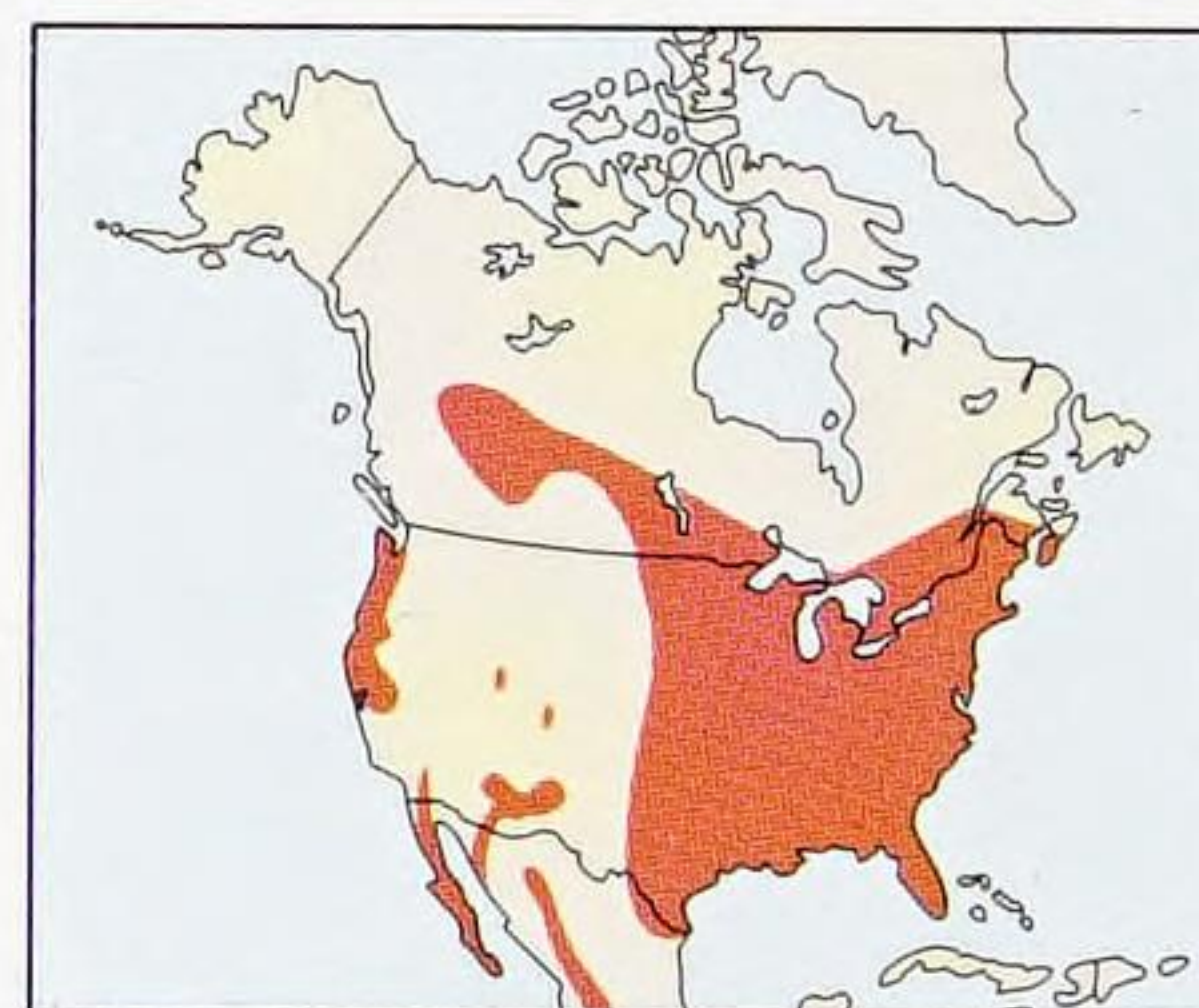
Scientific name:	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodland near water
Identification:	Stocky, broad-winged swallow with shallow forked tail. Metallic blue-black above, white beneath. Juvenile gray-brown above, often with indistinct dusky breast band
Similar species:	Violet-green Swallow has white on cheek and sides of rump, differing iridescent color in a good light. Juvenile Tree Swallow could be confused with Bank Swallow, which is similar coloring but has darker and more sharply defined breast band

The Tree Swallow is common and widespread in much of North America in summer, and spends the winter in the southern states and down into Central America. It is seen in a variety of habitats, often in huge flocks as it prepares to migrate in fall, but is never found far from water. It builds a cup nest of grass lined with soft feathers in a tree hollow, abandoned woodpecker hole or nesting box, in which it lays 4-6 white eggs. These are incubated for around 2 weeks and the young are ready to leave the nest about 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky, broad-winged bird with a shallow forked tail. Its plumage is sharply-defined metallic blue-black above against white beneath. The juvenile is gray-brown above, often with an indistinct dusky breast band. The Tree Swallow often perches in long rows on wires and branches. It eats insects and spiders caught on the wing, but turns to berries in winter when other food is scarce.

PURPLE MARTIN

Scientific name:	<i>Progne subis</i>
Length:	8 inches
Habitat:	Streams, ponds, woods, urban areas
Identification:	Large, long-winged, large-billed swallow with forked tail. Male glossy blue-black, wings and tail duller black. Female and juvenile dusky black above, light beneath, smoke-gray throat and breast
Similar species:	The European Starling looks alike and will nest in martin houses, but has longer bill, browner wings, lacks forked tail and typical swallow flight

Although populations are declining in North America, particularly in the west, the Purple Martin is still locally common in other areas. It is only seen in summer, as it migrates south in fall, to winter in South America, returning in early spring. It prefers the open countryside, but is also seen in suburban areas where there are suitable nest sites. It builds a loose nest of grass, leaves, feathers and other materials in a tree hollow, abandoned woodpecker hole or in the eaves of a building; birds in the east will use a purpose-built martin house. The 3-6 dull white eggs are incubated by the female for around 15-17 days and the young are ready to leave the nest about 4 weeks after hatching. The adult is the largest North American swallow, with long, angular, pointed wings, a large bill and a forked tail. The male is glossy blue-black, with duller black wings and tail. The female and juvenile are dusky black above, light beneath, with a smoke-gray throat and breast. The Purple Martin typically flies low with rapid wingbeats, alternating with short glides. It eats insects and airborne spiders, caught on the wing.



NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW

Scientific name:	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Riverbanks, cliffs
Identification:	Stocky, broad-winged swallow with short, square tail. Brown above, white beneath with dull gray-brown wash on throat and upper breast
Similar species:	Bank Swallow is smaller and has white throat and brown breast band

The Northern Rough-winged Swallow rarely comes together in flocks and is usually seen singly or in pairs - although it may

migrate in small groups. It is common across most of North America in summer, spending the winter in Central and South America. It nests in pairs in riverbanks, cliffs or under bridges, building a shallow saucer of grass and leaves at the end of a burrow or in a ready-made cavity in stonework. It lays 4-8 white eggs that are incubated for around 2 weeks; the young birds are ready to leave the nest about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird with long, broad wings and a short, square tail. Its plumage is brown above, white beneath with a dull gray-brown wash on the throat and upper breast. It gets its name from a row of small hooks on the edge of the outer feather of each wing; their function is unknown. The juvenile is similar to the adult, but has two bright cinnamon bars on each wing. The Northern Rough-winged Swallow eats flying insects caught on the wing.



VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW

- Scientific name:** *Tachycineta thalassina*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Evergreen forest, rocky cliffs, riversides
Identification: Medium-size, narrow-winged swallow with short, forked tail. Metallic bronze-green above, iridescent violet rump and tail, white beneath coming up onto rump and almost meeting above tail, white on cheek. Juvenile gray-brown above, dusky on face
Similar species: Tree Swallow lacks white on cheek and sides of rump, differing iridescent color in a good light. Juveniles of both species are very alike

Only seen in the west, the Violet-green Swallow is very common in North America in summer, spending the winter in Central America. It is seen in a variety of woodland habitats, and breeds in loose colonies. It builds a nest of grass and feathers in a tree hollow, abandoned woodpecker hole, under the eaves of a building or in a nesting box, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs. These are incubated for around 2 weeks and the young are ready to leave the nest about 11 days after hatching. The adult is a narrow-winged bird with a short forked tail. Its plumage is sharply-defined metallic bronze-green above, with an iridescent violet rump and tail, white beneath coming up onto rump and almost meeting above tail, and white on the cheek. The juvenile is gray-brown above, dusky on the face. The Violet-green Swallow either flies very high or skims low over the water, searching for airborne insects to catch on the wing.



CLIFF SWALLOW

- Scientific name:** *Hirundo pyrrhonota*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Cliffs, rural buildings
Identification: Medium-size swallow with broad rounded wings and short square tail. Blue-black crown and back, pale rust rump, dark wings and tail, chestnut throat and cheek, buffy collar, white forehead, whitish belly
Similar species: Cave Swallow is very alike, but has cinnamon forehead, buffy throat and cheek and is only found in America in small areas of Texas and Florida

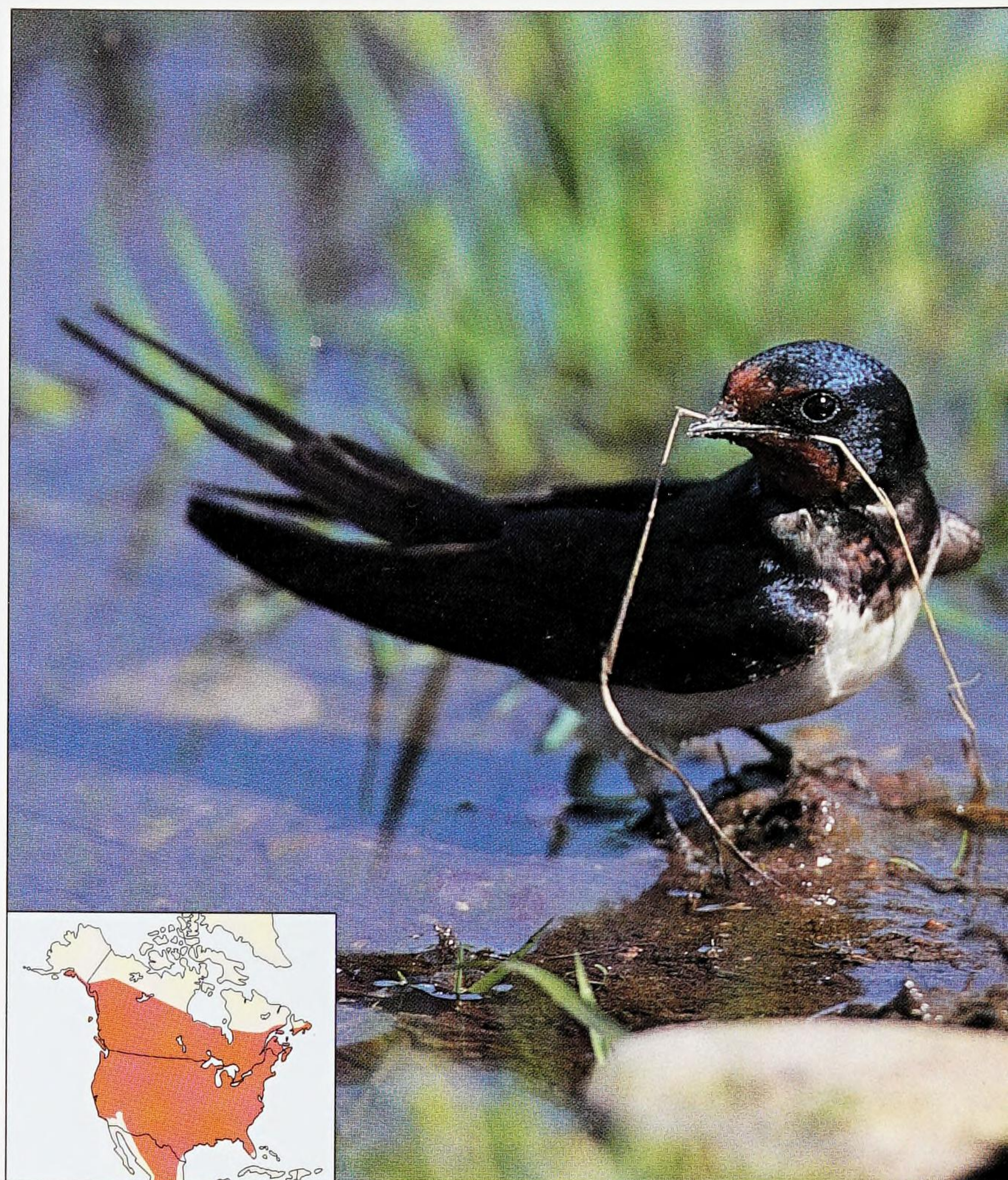
Although it is found across most of North America in summer, the Cliff Swallow is common in the west and much less numerous in the east. It migrates in fall in large flocks to spend the winter in South America, returning in early spring, after which it can be spotted near cliffs in open country, or round bridges and rural buildings. It breeds in very large colonies of hundreds of birds, building a gourd-shaped nest of mud lined with grass and feathers on a natural cliff face, under the eaves of a building or on a bridge. It lays 4-6 creamy, lightly spotted eggs that are incubated for around 2 weeks by both parent birds; the young chicks are ready to leave the nest about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a medium-size swallow with broad rounded wings and a short square tail. It has a blue-black crown and back with a pale rust rump, dark wings and tail, a chestnut throat and cheek, a buffy collar and a white forehead and whitish belly. Some southwest birds have a dark forehead, like the Cave Swallow. The juvenile is grayer than the adult, with a paler throat and darker forehead. The Cliff Swallow feeds on small insects caught in flight, but sometimes takes berries or other fruit when insects are scarce.



BARN SWALLOW

Scientific name:	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Rural buildings, culverts, bridges
Identification:	Largish swallow with long, slender, pointed wings and long, deeply-forked tail. Blue-black above, pale cinnamon or buffy-white below, chestnut-red throat and forehead, white spots under tail
Similar species:	Shape and plumage are unmistakable

A graceful and elegant bird, the Barn Swallow is found across most of North America in summer, gathering in large flocks in fall to migrate south to winter in South America. It breeds in small colonies, building a cup-shaped nest of mud and straw lined with feathers attached to a wall or on a vertical surface of a bridge - it now very rarely nests away from man-made structures. It lays 3-6 white, red-brown-spotted eggs that are incubated for around 14-18 days; the young birds leave the nest to fend for themselves about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a largish swallow with long, slender, pointed wings and a long, deeply-forked tail. It is blue-black above, pale cinnamon or buffy-white below, with a chestnut-red throat and forehead and white spots under the tail that may be hard to distinguish. The juvenile has paler underparts than the adult, and a shorter tail. The Barn Swallow feeds on insects caught in flight, and hunts communally. In flight, it may fold its forked tail into one long point.



BANK SWALLOW

Scientific name:	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Riverbanks, gravel pits
Identification:	Small, slender, narrow-winged swallow with long, notched tail. Brown above, white beneath with brown band across upper breast
Similar species:	The Northern Rough-winged Swallow is larger, and has a brown wash on the throat instead of the breast band

The smallest swallow in North America, the Bank Swallow is common across most of North America in summer, migrating south in large flocks to spend the winter in South America. It breeds in very large colonies - sometimes containing hundreds of birds - digging a deep tunnel in a soft earth bank, with a chamber at the end which is lined with grass and feathers. Tunnels are often renovated and reused the following year, due to a shortage of sufficient suitable sites. It lays 4-6 white eggs that are incubated for around 2 weeks by both parent birds; the young chicks are ready to leave the nest about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, slender, narrow-winged swallow with a long, notched tail. Its plumage is brown above, white beneath with a brown band across the upper breast. The juvenile is similar to the adult, but has two narrow buffy bars on each wing. The Bank Swallow flies with very fast, shallow wingbeats and eats insects caught in flight.

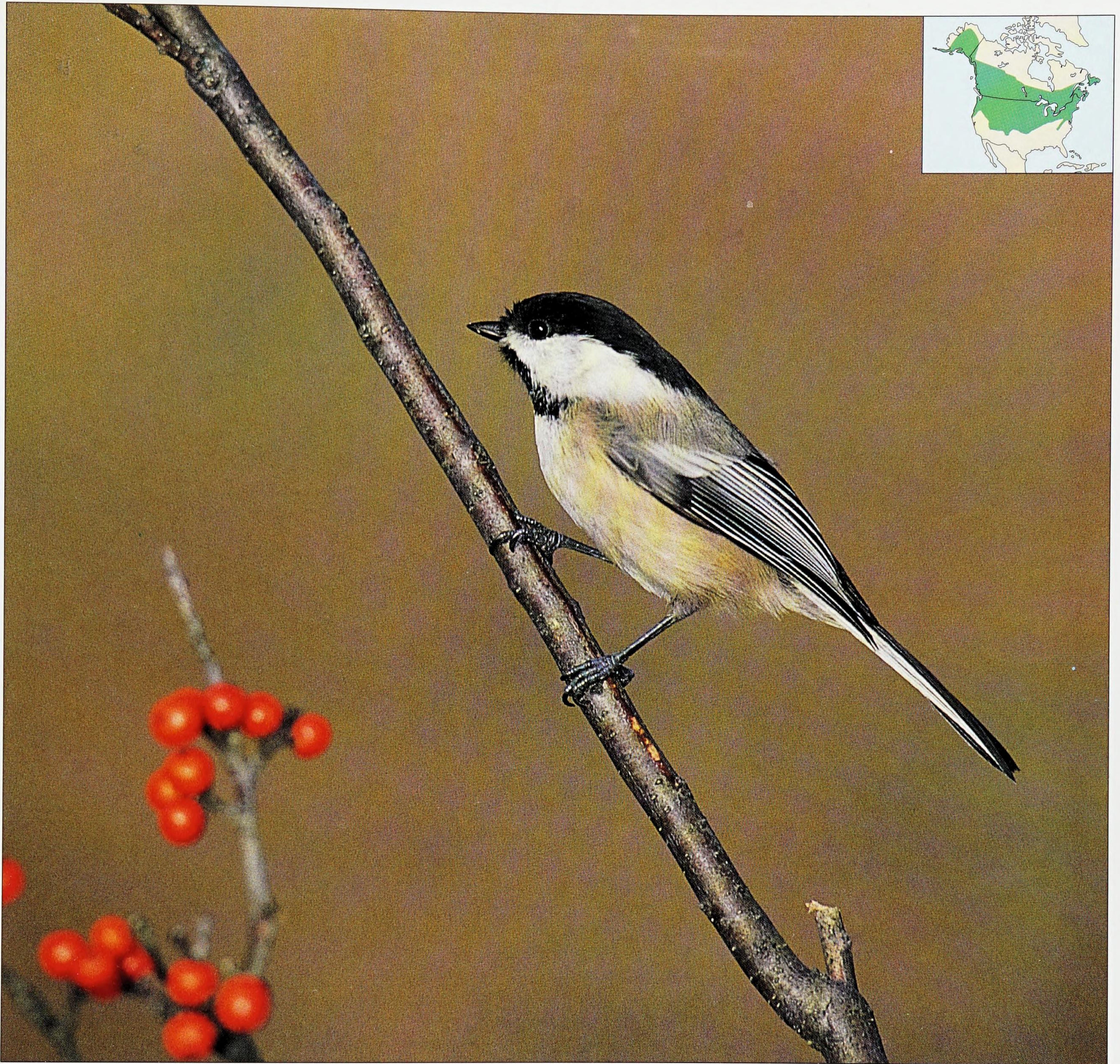


CAROLINA CHICKADEE

Scientific name:	<i>Parus carolinensis</i>
Length:	4 ³ / ₄ inches
Habitat:	Open deciduous woods, forest edges, suburbs
Identification:	Small, long-tailed woodland songbird, with large head. Gray above, creamy beneath with buff flanks, black throat patch and cap, white face
Similar species:	Almost identical to Black-capped Chickadee, which is slightly larger, mainly told apart by range, although this overlaps in places. In fresh plumage, the Black-capped has white edges on secondary wing feathers. Mountain Chickadee is like both, but has distinguishing white eyebrow

The Carolina Chickadee is found in the woods of the southeast, replacing the Black-capped abruptly south of a line that runs halfway across central North America. It is very common within its range, and like other chickadees often comes to feeders. It nests in a tree cavity, often excavating a hole in a rotten stump and lining it with plant fibers and feathers to hold 4-8 white eggs lightly spotted with rust-brown. These are incubated for 10-12 days and the young are ready to leave the nest just over 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, long-tailed bird, with a largish head. It is gray above, creamy beneath with buff flanks, and has a black throat patch and cap, and a white face. The lower edge of the throat patch is usually neater than that of the Black-capped, which can look a bit ragged. The Carolina Chickadee eats insects, seeds and berries.





BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE

Scientific name: *Parus atricapillus*

Length: 5¼ inches

Habitat: Open woodland, suburbs

Identification: Bold, long-tailed woodland songbird, with large head and fluffy plumage. Gray above, creamy beneath with buff flanks, black throat patch and cap, white face

Similar species: Almost identical to Carolina Chickadee, which is slightly smaller, mainly told apart by range, although this overlaps in places. In fresh plumage, the Black-capped has white edges on secondary wing feathers. Mountain Chickadee is like both, but has distinguishing white eyebrow

A small and constantly active bird, the Black-capped Chickadee is found right across central North America in open woodland - but also often visits suburban bird feeders, where it is particularly fond of sunflower seeds and suet. It nests in a tree hole, often in a rotten stump, making a loose cup of plant material and feathers to hold 4-8 white eggs lightly spotted with rust-brown. These are incubated for 10-12 days and the young are ready to leave the nest just over 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a bold, long-tailed bird, with a large head and rather fluffy plumage. It is gray above, creamy beneath with buff flanks, and has a black throat patch and cap, and a white face. The secondary wing feathers are boldly edged in white, but this may only be apparent in fresh plumage. After the breeding season is over, the Black-capped Chickadee forms small flocks to roost and forage together. It eats insects, seeds and berries.

MOUNTAIN CHICKADEE *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Parus gambeli</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Mountain coniferous and mixed forests
Identification:	Long-winged woodland songbird with longish bill. Gray above, creamy beneath with pale gray flanks, black throat patch and cap, white eyebrow and white face
Similar species:	Very similar to both Black-capped Chickadee, which is slightly larger, and Carolina Chickadee, which is slightly smaller; both lack distinguishing white eyebrow. Bridled Titmouse has crested head

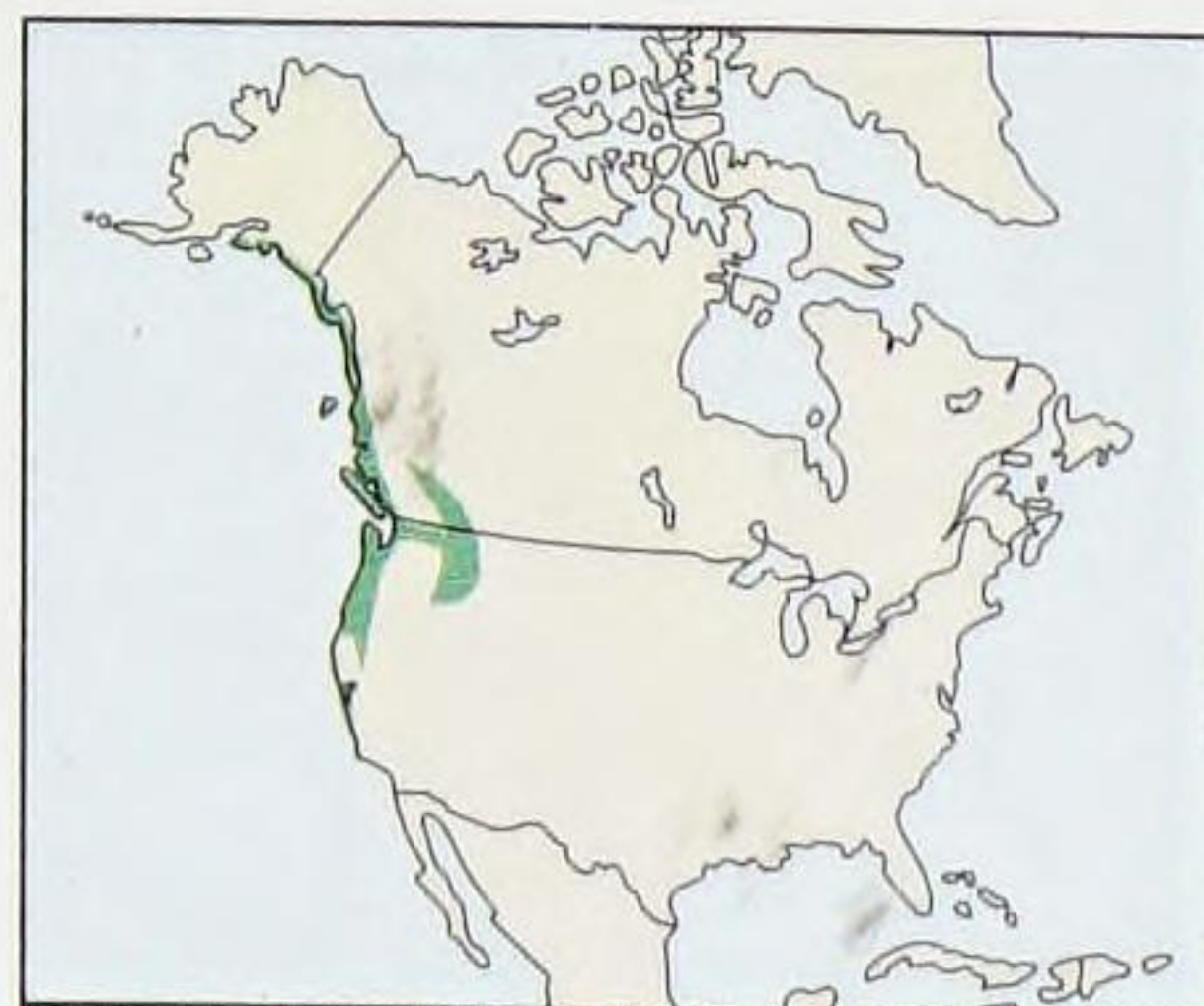
At higher elevations the Mountain Chickadee is common in coniferous and mixed woods, although some birds come down to the lowlands in winter. It nests in a tree cavity, either taking over an old woodpecker hole or excavating its own in a rotten stump, lining it with hair, fur or feathers to hold 6-8 white eggs, sometimes spotted with brown. These are incubated for about 2 weeks and the young are ready to leave the nest around 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a long-winged bird, with a relatively long bill. It is gray above, creamy beneath with pale gray flanks, and has a black throat patch and cap, with a white eyebrow and a white face. Like other chickadees, the Mountain Chickadee flits among the trees, clambering among the branches like a tiny acrobat. It forages in small flocks, often with other small birds, and eats insects, seeds and berries.

BOREAL CHICKADEE

Scientific name:	<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Dense coniferous forests
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird with large head. Gray-brown above, whitish beneath with pale rust flanks, dark brown cap, black throat patch, white cheeks
Similar species:	Similar to Black-capped Chickadee, but browner

Although it is fairly common within its range, the Boreal Chickadee is shy and quiet and normally inhabits such dense coniferous forest that it may be difficult to spot. In Europe, the same species also occurs but there they are known as tits rather than chickadees. It nests in a tree cavity, sometimes natural or sometimes excavating its own in a rotten stump, lining it with animal fur or feathers to hold 6-9 white eggs, faintly speckled with brown. These are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a long-winged bird, with a fairly long tail. It is gray-brown above, whitish beneath with pale rust flanks, and has a black throat patch and a dark brown cap and white cheeks. The Boreal Chickadee eats insects, seeds and caterpillars; in late summer and early fall, when there is an abundance of food, it stores supplies for winter among the needles or under the bark of tree branches. Since it spends most of its life in the northern forest and has not learned to fear man, the Boreal Chickadee may appear very tame.





CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE

Scientific name: *Parus rufescens*

Length: 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches

Habitat: Dense wet coniferous forest, pine-oak woodland

Identification: Small, shortish-tailed woodland bird with large head. Chestnut-brown flanks and back, whitish beneath, black throat patch and sooty-brown cap, white cheeks

Similar species: Chestnut coloring distinctive

The smallest and most colorful North American chickadee, the Chestnut-backed inhabits damp coniferous forests along the west

coast, although in California it also lives in pine-oak woods and willows next to streams. Outside the summer breeding season it tends to travel in small flocks, often with other insect-eating birds such as warblers, kinglets or juncos. It nests in a tree cavity - either a natural hole, an abandoned woodpecker nest or excavating its own in a rotten stump - lining it inside with animal fur and moss to hold 5-9 white eggs, lightly spotted with red-brown. Exact details of the incubation period and nestling habits are not known. The adult is a small, shortish-tailed bird with a relatively large head. It has chestnut-brown flanks and back and is whitish beneath, with a small black throat patch and sooty-brown cap, and white cheeks. On the central Californian coast, some birds have grayer flanks with almost no chestnut. The Chestnut-backed Chickadee forages high up in the top of conifer or deciduous trees and eats insects, seeds and berries.



TUFTED TITMOUSE *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Parus bicolor</i>
Length:	6½ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous woodland, mature city parks
Identification:	Stocky woodland songbird with broad tail and distinct crest. Gray above, whitish beneath with pale orange-buffy flanks, gray crest, black forehead. Some birds have black crest and pale forehead
Similar species:	Coloring is distinctive

The Tufted Titmouse is fairly common across eastern North America and often visits feeders - particularly in winter. It is usually seen in pairs or in small flocks, but will also join other small birds in winter to form mixed flocks. In the breeding season it nests in a natural tree cavity, similar hole or a nesting box, building a loose cup of moss, bark and hair at the bottom to hold its 5-8 white, brown-speckled eggs. These are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female bird and the young are ready to leave the nest and fend for themselves about 17-19 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird with a distinct crest, a relatively short, broad tail and a small bill. It is gray above and whitish beneath, with pale orange-buffy flanks, a gray crest and a black forehead. In parts of Texas, birds have a black crest and a pale forehead and were formerly considered a separate species, the Black-crested Titmouse. The Tufted Titmouse is an active and sociable bird. It mainly eats insects, fruit and seeds and is particularly fond of sunflower seeds.

JUNIPER TITMOUSE

Scientific name:	<i>Baeolophus griseus</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Dry juniper and pinyon pine woods
Identification:	Small woodland songbird with a small crest. Gray or gray-brown, underparts lighter
Similar species:	Oak Titmouse is slightly smaller, darker and browner

When it was considered to be one species along with the Oak Titmouse, the Juniper Titmouse was known as the Plain Titmouse. Although they are extremely similar in looks, they inhabit a somewhat different range and prefer rather different habitats - as their new name suggests, the Juniper prefers juniper and pinyon pine and the Oak prefers oak woods. In the summer breeding season, both will nest in a natural tree cavity, fence post hole or a crevice in a building - although they will also accept a nesting box - building a loose cup of grass, fur and feathers at the bottom to hold 4-8 white, brown-speckled eggs. The adult is a small, plain songbird with a small crest. Its plumage is gray or gray-brown, with lighter underparts. The Juniper Titmouse is slightly larger, and its plumage is paler and grayer than the Oak. Both the Oak and Juniper titmouse are usually found singly or in pairs - they very rarely gather into flocks. They eat insects, seeds and berries.



BRIDLED TITMOUSE *(above)*

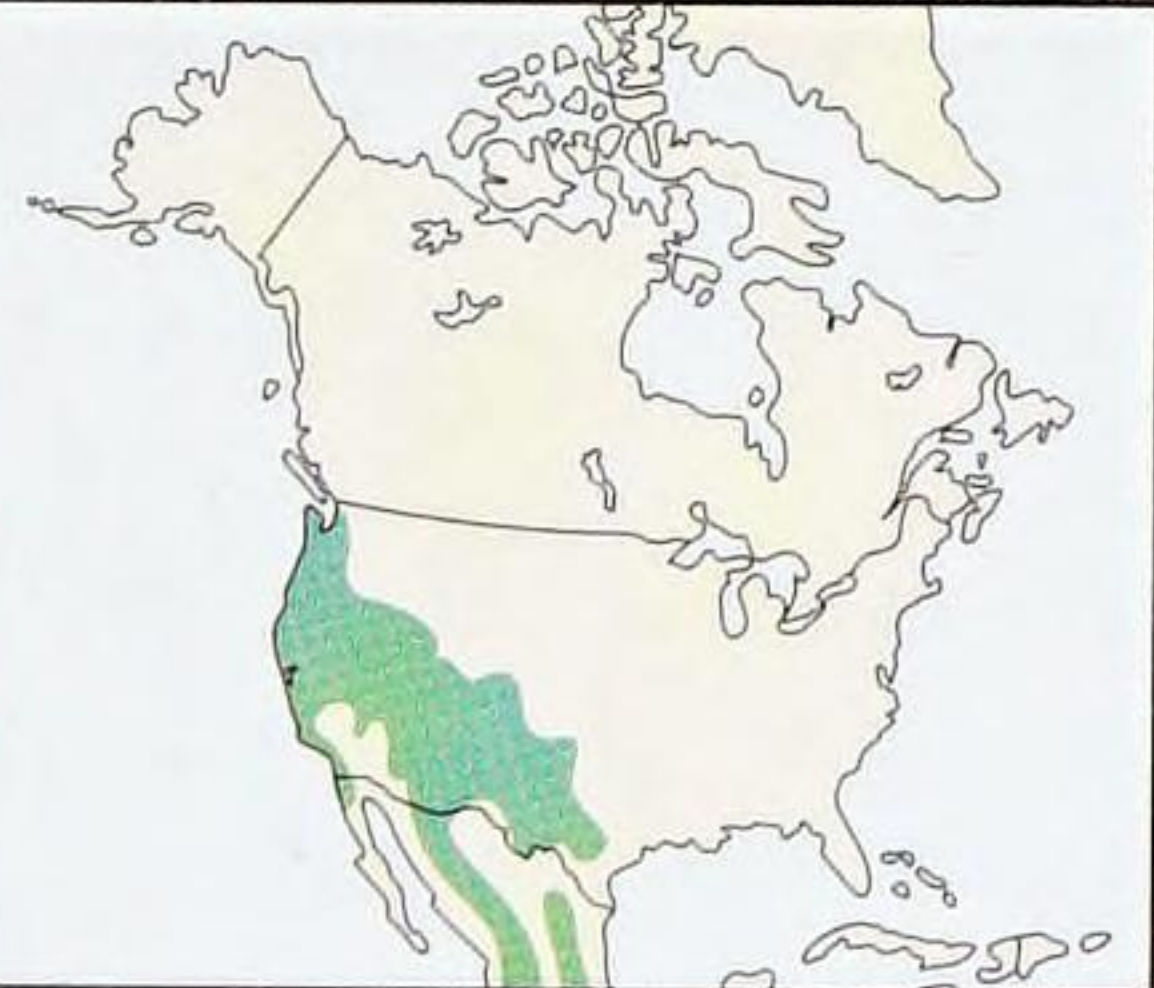
Scientific name:	<i>Parus wollweberi</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Foothill and canyon oak woods at elevations between 5000 and 7000 feet
Identification:	Small woodland songbird with a distinct crest. Gray above, whitish beneath with black and gray crest, black throat and black "bridle" on white face
Similar species:	Mountain Chickadee has similar black and white facial pattern, but lacks crest

Although its American range is limited, the Bridled Titmouse is locally common - although it is elusive and may be hard to spot. Despite its small size, it will attack much larger birds in self-defence and will also join other small birds to mob predators. In the breeding season it nests in a natural tree cavity or takes over an abandoned woodpecker hole - although it will accept a nesting box - building a loose cup of cottonwood down, plant fibers and grass at the bottom to hold its 5-8 white eggs. The adult is a small bird with a distinct crest, a relatively long tail and a short bill. It is gray above and whitish beneath, with black and gray crest, a black throat and black "bridle" on a white face. The Bridled Titmouse is an acrobatic bird, often hanging upside down from a twig to reach a tasty morsel. It mainly eats insects and small spiders.

OAK TITMOUSE

Scientific name:	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Dry oak woods, wooded suburbs
Identification:	Small woodland songbird with a small crest. Gray or gray-brown, underparts lighter
Similar species:	Juniper Titmouse is slightly larger, paler and grayer

The Oak Titmouse and the Juniper Titmouse were once considered to be one species, known as the Plain Titmouse. They are very similar in looks, but inhabit a slightly different range and prefer different habitats - the Oak prefers oak woods, and the Juniper prefers juniper and pinyon pine. In the breeding season, both nest in a natural tree cavity, fence post hole or building crevice - although they will accept a nesting box - building a loose cup of grass, fur and feathers at the bottom to hold 4-8 white, brown-speckled eggs. The adult is a small, plain songbird with a small crest. Its plumage is gray or gray-brown, with lighter underparts. The Juniper Titmouse is slightly larger, and its plumage is paler and grayer. Both the Oak and Juniper titmouse are usually found singly or in pairs - they rarely gather into flocks. They eat insects, seeds and berries.



BUSHTIT

Scientific name:	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous woods, parks, gardens
Identification:	Small, long-tailed songbird with short stubby bill. Gray above, lighter beneath. Pacific coast birds have brown crown, some in west Texas may have black ear patch
Similar species:	Juvenile Verdin may be mistaken for Bushtit, but has shorter tail and is never seen in flocks

The Bushtit spends most of the year in flocks of up to 30 birds,

flitting through the trees of deciduous woods and constantly twittering. The flocks only break up in the breeding season, when birds pair up to build a hanging, gourd-shaped nest of tightly-woven plant fiber with its entrance near the top, to hold 5-14 white eggs. These are incubated for about 11-13 days by both birds, and the young leave the nest about 2 weeks after hatching but join the parents to form a family group. The adult is a small, long-tailed bird with a short, stubby bill. It is mainly gray above and lighter beneath, but Pacific coast birds have a brown crown, and some in west Texas may have a black ear patch - they were once considered to be a separate species, the Black-eared Bushtit. The Bushtit forages in flocks, moving from one feeding spot to another in a unit. It eats insects, spiders and berries.



VERDIN *(above and right)*

- Scientific name:** *Auriparus flaviceps*
Length: 4½ inches
Habitat: Desert, dense thorny scrub
Identification: Small, short-tailed songbird with short sharp-pointed bill. Gray above, white beneath, bright yellow head and throat, small chestnut-red patch on shoulder often not visible
Similar species: Coloring of adult is distinctive. Juveniles lack yellow and chestnut, distinguished from similar Bushtit by shorter tail

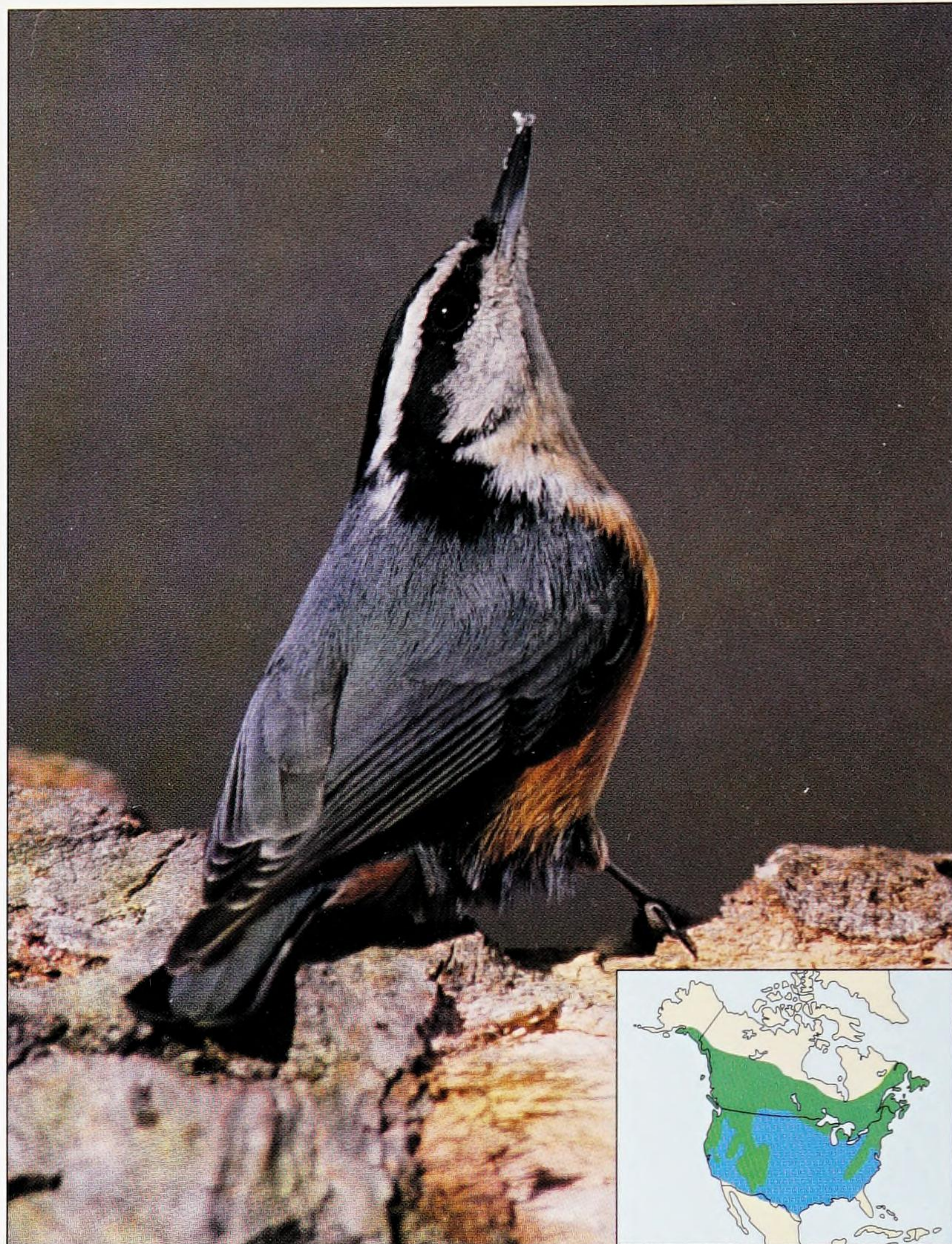
A slender and active bird, the Verdin prefers arid country and is common in the desert areas of North America. It is usually seen alone or in pairs and sometimes visits hummingbird feeders. In the breeding season it builds a ball-shaped nest of thorny twigs in a cactus or mesquite, with its entrance at the side, to hold its 3-5 greenish, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated for about 9-11 days and the young are ready to leave the nest and make way for a second brood about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, short-tailed bird with a short, sharp-pointed bill. It is gray above and white beneath, with a bright yellow head and throat, and a small chestnut-red patch on the shoulder, which is often not visible. The juvenile is plain gray. The Verdin feeds on insects, seeds and berries, but also takes nectar from flowers.



RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Scientific name:	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Conifer and mixed forests
Identification:	Small, short-tailed woodland bird. Blue-gray above, black cap over white eyebrow, broad black eye stripe, rusty-red breast, belly, undertail coverts. Female and juvenile slate-gray cap, paler beneath
Similar species:	Coloring is distinctive

Nuthatches climb up, down and around tree trunks and branches, using their strong legs and feet. Since they do not use the tail as a brace, they can also move head downward. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is fairly common across North America, spreading through most of the south in winter. In the summer, it prefers the conifer forests and mixed woodland of the north, nesting in an excavated tree cavity up to 100 feet above the ground, or in a nesting box. It lines the nest cavity with feathers, moss, grass and bark and lays 5-8 white, red-brown-speckled eggs. These are incubated for about 11-13 days by both adults and the young are ready to leave the nest and fend for themselves about 19-22 days after hatching. The adult is a small, short-tailed bird with a fairly long, pointed bill. It is blue-gray above, with a black cap over a white eyebrow, a broad black eye stripe, and rusty-red breast, belly and undertail coverts. The female and juvenile have a more slate-gray cap, and are paler beneath. The Red-breasted Nuthatch eats conifer seeds and insects. It stores excess food in larders and in lean years will migrate further south.



BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH

Scientific name:	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Pine woodlands
Identification:	Tiny, short-tailed woodland bird with long bill. Blue-gray above, brown cap, blackish eyeline, creamy-buff beneath, white spot on nape
Similar species:	Almost identical to Pygmy Nuthatch, but ranges are different

The Brown-headed Nuthatch is usually seen in pairs or small groups, and is common in the pine woods of the southeast. It nests at the bottom of a cavity in a dead tree stump, up to 20 feet above the ground, or in a nesting box, lining the hole with plant fibers, bark strips and wood chips. It lays 4-9 white eggs, speckled and blotched with red-brown, which are incubated for about 2 weeks by both adult birds; the young are ready to leave and fend for themselves about 17 days after hatching. The adult is a tiny, short-tailed bird with a long bill. It is blue-gray above, with a brown cap, a blackish eyeline, creamy-buff underparts and a white spot on the nape that is visible at close range. The Brown-headed Nuthatch eats nuts, seeds, larvae, spiders and insects. In winter it often joins other birds to form a mixed flock that forages together.





WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Oaks, conifers, leafy forests, mature parks
Identification:	Medium-size, short-tailed woodland bird with long, upturned bill. Blue-gray above, black crown and nape, white face, white beneath
Similar species:	The only nuthatch with a white face

The White-breasted Nuthatch prefers mature trees and is found across most of central North America, preferring leafy trees in the east and oaks and conifers in the west. It nests in an excavated or a natural tree hole up to 50 feet above the ground, or in a nesting box, lining the cavity with fur and bark chips. It lays 5-9 white eggs, with red, brown and gray spots. These are incubated for about 11-13 days by both adults and the young are ready to leave the nest and fend for themselves about 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a medium-size, short-tailed bird with a long, slightly upturned bill. It is blue-gray above, with a black crown and nape, white face and white underparts. The White-breasted Nuthatch is inquisitive and acrobatic; like other nuthatches, when creeping down a tree it often pauses to look round with its head held upwards. It eats nuts, seeds, fruit and insects.

PYGMY NUTHATCH

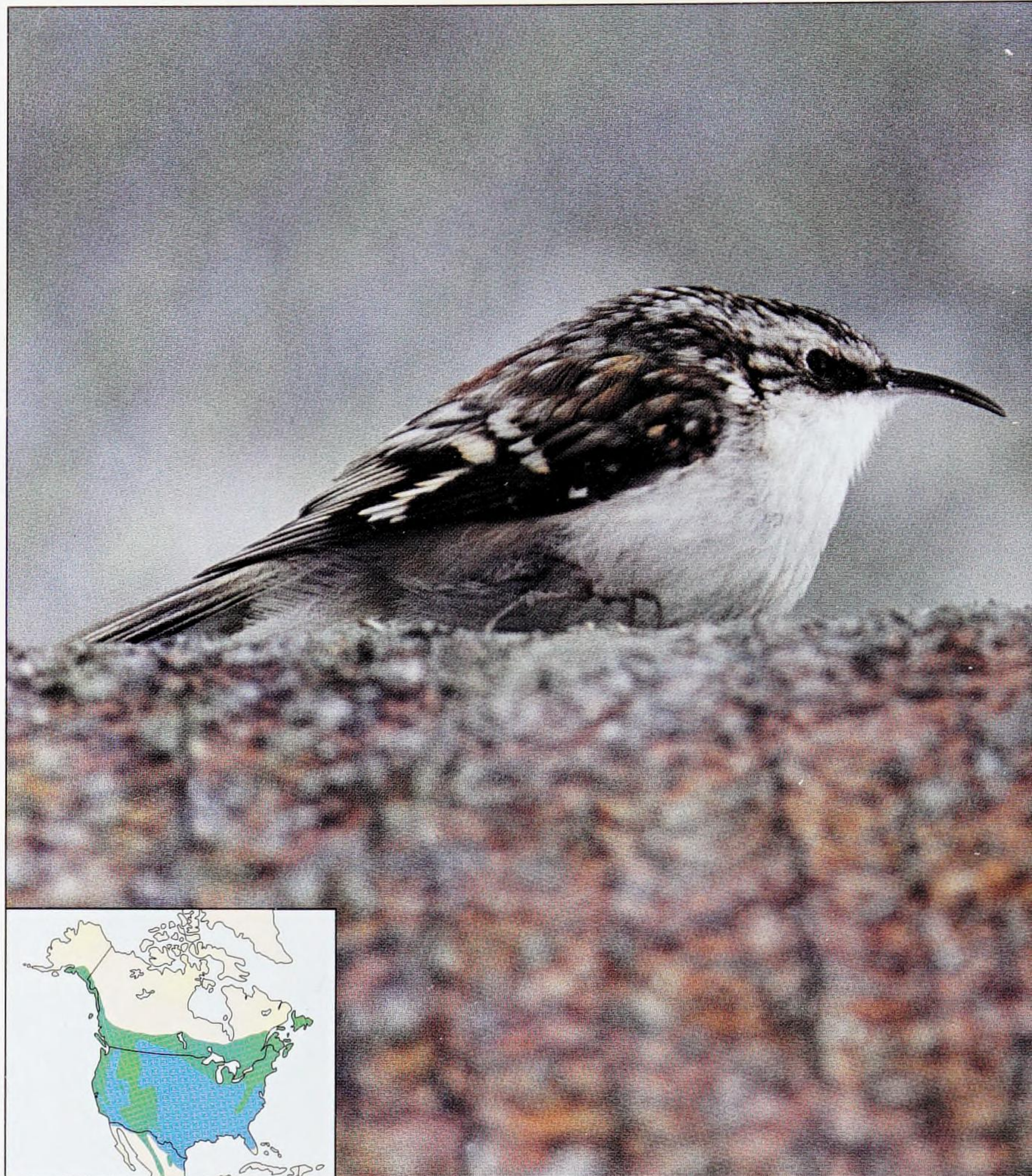
Scientific name:	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Pine forest
Identification:	Tiny, short-tailed woodland bird with long bill. Blue-gray above, gray-brown cap, indistinct black eyeline, creamy-buff beneath, white spot on nape
Similar species:	Almost identical to Brown-headed Nuthatch, but ranges are different

Usually seen in small flocks, the Pygmy Nuthatch is common in the coniferous forest of the western mountains. It nests at the bottom of a cavity in a dead tree stump, up to 15 feet above the ground, or in a nesting box, lining the hole with plant down, feathers and pine cone scales. It lays 5-9 white eggs, speckled with red-brown, which are incubated for about 17 days, usually by the female; the young are ready to leave and fend for themselves about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a tiny, short-tailed bird with a long bill. It is blue-gray above, with a gray-brown cap, an indistinct black eyeline, creamy-buff underparts and a white spot on the nape that is only visible at close range. Like other nuthatches, the Pygmy Nuthatch eats nuts, seeds, larvae and insects and stores excess food for the following winter. Although they forage independently during the day, at night many birds will often gather to roost together in one tree cavity.

BROWN CREEPER

Scientific name:	<i>Certhia americana</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed forests, wooded swamps
Identification:	Small, slender woodland bird with long, thin, stiff tail and thin down-curved bill. Mottled brown above, whitish eyebrow, white underparts
Similar species:	Behavior makes it unmistakable

Unlike the nuthatch, the Brown Creeper uses its tail as a brace so it can only climb trees upwards, circling the trunk in a spiral from the base until it reaches the top, then flying to the base of the next. It is quite common, but easy to overlook, and although it is usually a solitary bird, it sometimes joins flocks of other birds in winter. It builds a nest of bark, moss and twigs held together with spider web, up to 15 feet above the ground and concealed behind a loose piece of bark on a conifer. It lays 4-8 white eggs, speckled with red-brown, which are incubated for about 2 weeks; the young are ready to leave and fend for themselves a further 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, slender bird with a long, thin, stiff tail and thin down-curved bill. It is mottled brown above, with a whitish eyebrow and white underparts. The Brown Creeper eats spiders and insects, as well as insect eggs and larvae, which it digs out of the cracks and crevices of tree bark.



BEWICK'S WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Brushland, hedgerows, open woods, river edges
Identification:	Slender songbird with long tail. Warm brown above, white or grayish underparts, long bold white eyebrow, white outer tips to tail visible when it is fanned, unique slow sideways flicking of tail
Similar species:	Carolina Wren is richer in color, lacks white corners on tail

Common in many areas of the west, Bewick's Wren is vanishing in the east - probably because of the destruction of its preferred nesting habitat. It lives in pairs throughout the year, favouring open areas with lots of undergrowth for cover. It builds a nest of moss and leaves lined with down in a tree hole, building crevice or a nesting box, in which it lays 4-9 pinky-white eggs, speckled with brown and lilac. These are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female bird; the young are ready to leave and fend for themselves a further 2 weeks after hatching; there may be a second brood in the season. The adult is a slender bird with a long tail, which it flicks slowly sideways and up and down in a unique way. It is warm brown above with white or grayish underparts, a long, bold, white eyebrow and white tips to the outer tail feathers, visible when it is fanned. Birds in the east are richer in color. Bewick's Wren eats insects and spiders, which it extracts from crevices with its long bill.



CAROLINA WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Wet woodland, swamps
Identification:	Stocky, large-headed songbird with slightly down-curved bill. Rich rusty-brown above, warm buff underparts, white throat, bold white eyebrow
Similar species:	Bewick's Wren is less rich in color, has white corners on tail

The Carolina Wren is found all over southeast America and spreads north during mild weather, although populations

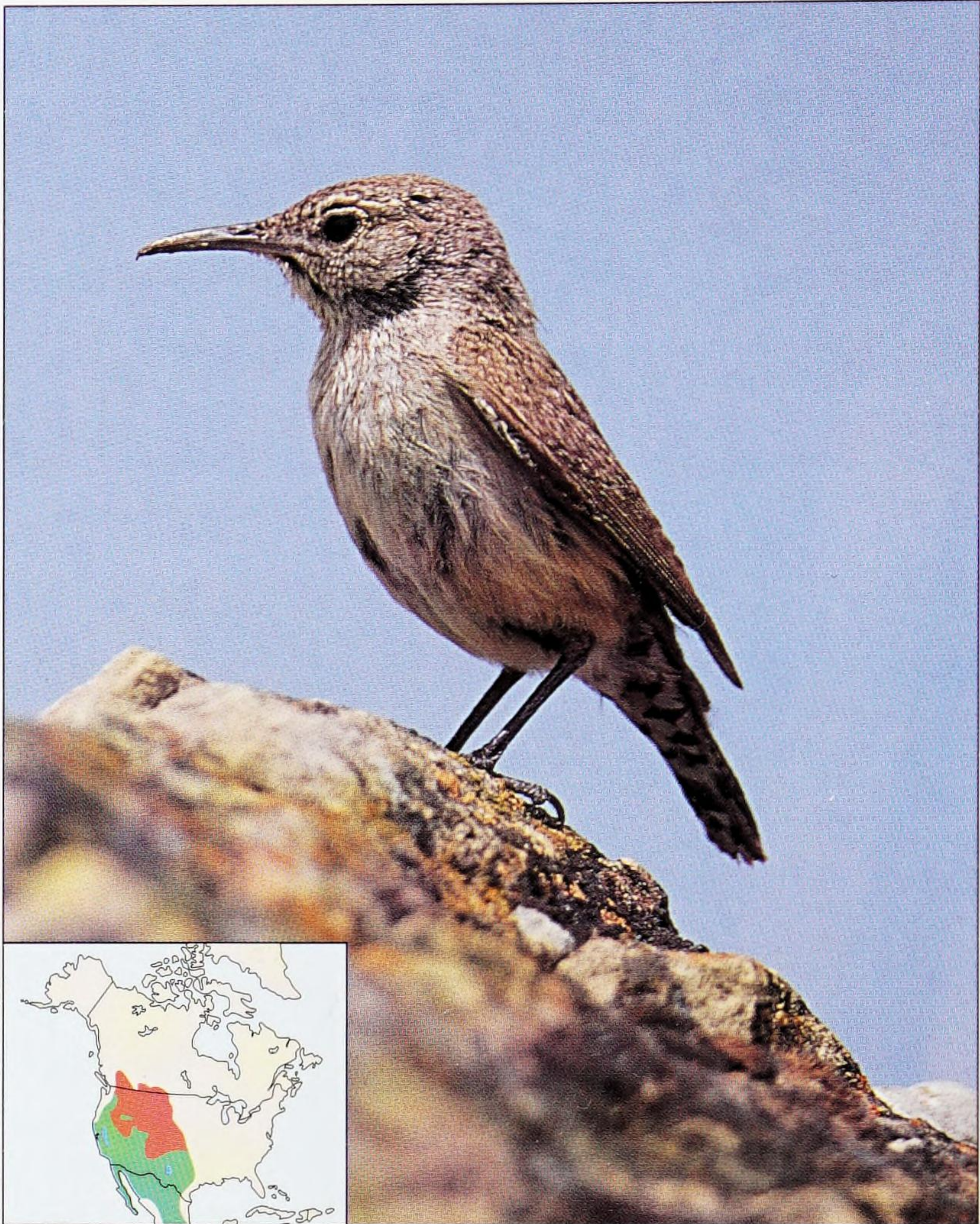
decrease sharply after a hard winter. It lives in pairs throughout the year and is common, although usually concealed in the underbrush of wet woodland and swamps. It builds a nest of bark, grass and stems up to 10 feet above the ground in a tree hole or a nesting box, in which it lays 4-8 pinky-white eggs, speckled with brown. These are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female bird; the young are ready to leave and fend for themselves a further 2 weeks after hatching, and there may be further broods in the season. The adult is a stocky bird with a large head and a slightly down-curved bill. It is rich rusty-brown above and warm buff underneath, with a white throat and a bold white eyebrow. The Carolina Wren eats insects and spiders, and sometimes seeds or berries.



ROCK WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Rocky desert, arid scrubland, dry washes
Identification:	Medium-size songbird with a long bill. Finely mottled gray-brown above, cinnamon rump, pale breast with fine streaking, pale eyebrow, buffy tips to outer tail feathers
Similar species:	Distinctive within range

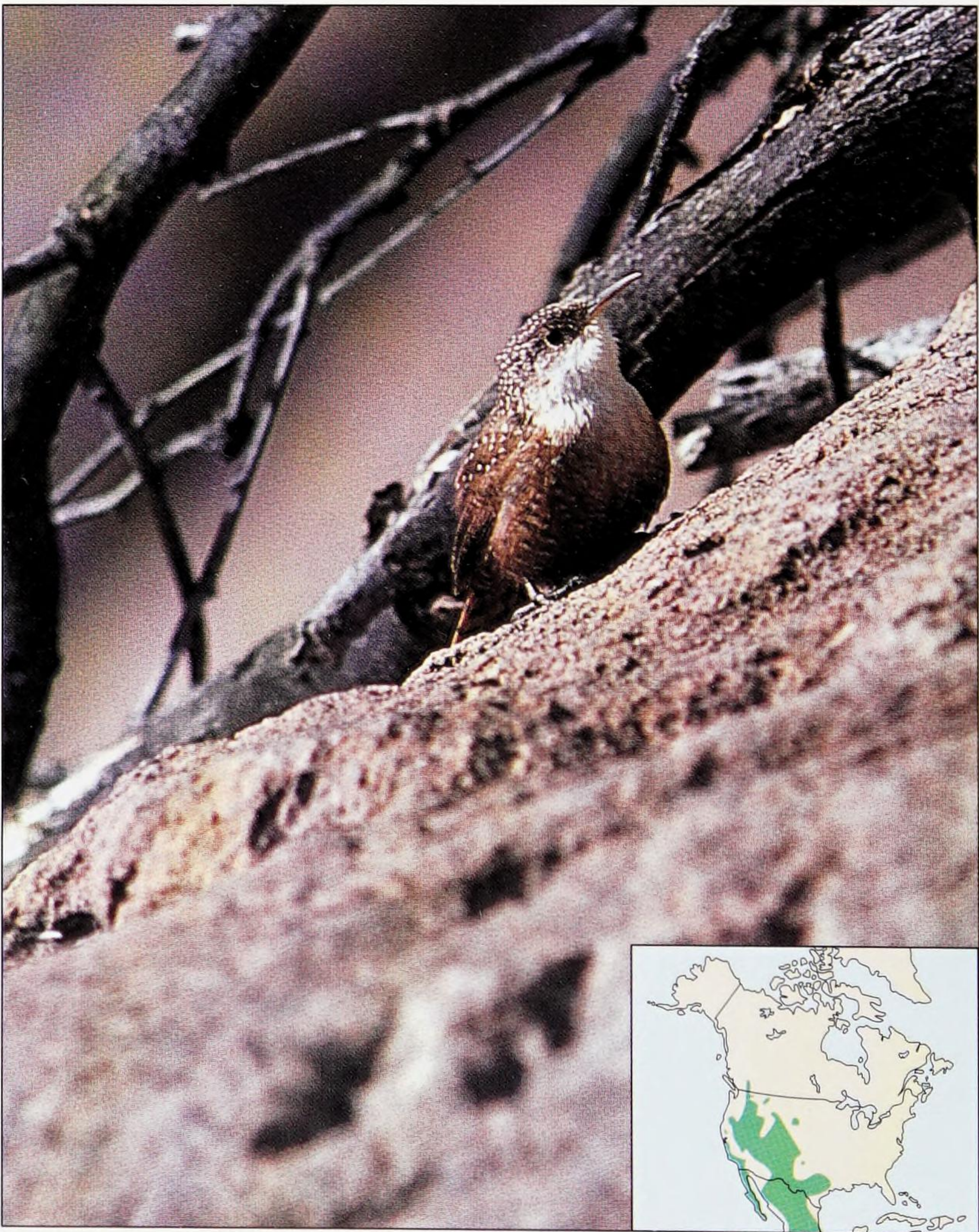
The Rock Wren is often seen on the ground or on a rock in arid areas, bobbing its body up and down - particularly if it is alarmed. It is fairly common in its range, and is sometimes seen further east in fall and winter. It builds a nest of weeds, grass, bark and roots, lined with hair, feathers or wool, hidden among rocks or in a crevice of a hillside or adobe building. It often builds a pathway of stones leading to the entrance, the purpose of which is not fully understood. It lays 4-7 white eggs, speckled with purple-brown, which are incubated by the female, although details are unknown. The adult is a medium-size bird with a long bill. It is finely mottled gray-brown above, with a cinnamon rump, pale breast with fine streaking, a pale eyebrow, and buffy tips to the outer tail feathers. The Rock Wren eats insects, spiders and earthworms.



CANYON WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>
Length:	5 3/4 inches
Habitat:	Canyons, cliffs
Identification:	Medium-size songbird with very long bill and short, broad tail. Finely mottled brown above, chestnut rump and tail with black bars on tail, white throat and breast, finely streaked dark chestnut belly
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

Although its range covers much of the west and it is fairly common, the Canyon Wren is elusive and hard to spot as it moves about among boulders and in cracks on canyon walls. It builds a cup-shaped nest of twigs, leaves, grass and moss, lined with hair or fur, on a ledge or hidden in a crevice of a rock, cliff or building. It lays 4-6 white eggs, finely speckled with brown, but details of the incubation and nestling periods are unknown. The adult is a medium-size bird with a very long bill and a short, broad tail. It is finely mottled brown above, with a chestnut rump and chestnut tail with black bars, a white throat and breast, and a finely streaked dark chestnut belly. The Canyon Wren eats insects and spiders, which it extracts from deep crevices in the rock with its long bill.

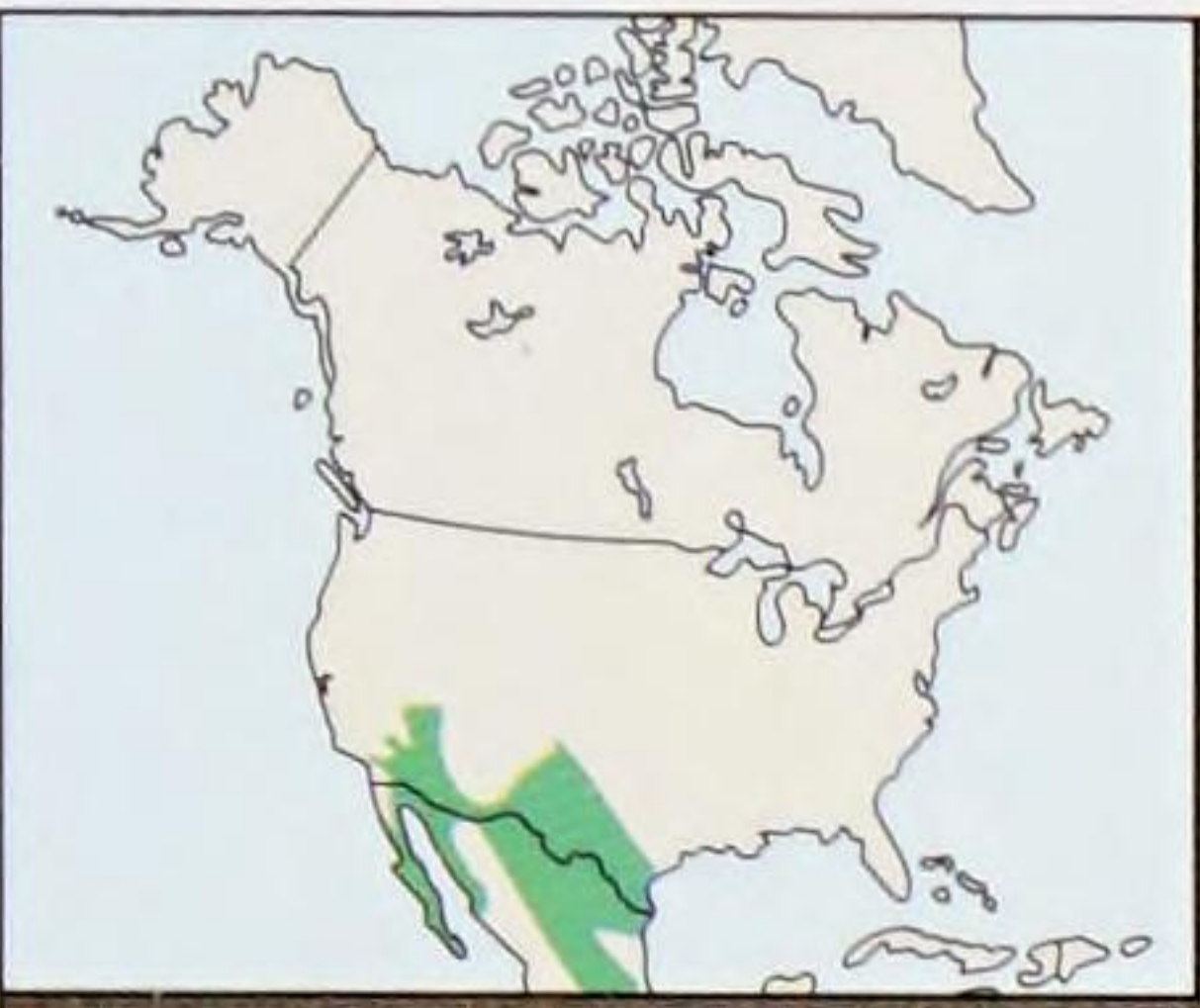


CACTUS WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Cactus country, arid hillsides
Identification:	Large, bulky songbird with long heavy bill and rounded tail. Brown head, dark brown above streaked white, cross barring on wings and tail with white spotting on outer tail feathers, white eyebrow, dark spotting on underparts concentrated on white breast, pale rust belly
Similar species:	Sage Thrasher is grayer, lacks white eyebrow

The largest of the North American wrens, the Cactus Wren is conspicuous in the desert and other arid ground in noisy family

groups. It builds a bulky ball-shaped nest of grass and twigs with an entrance at the side, placed about 10 feet above the ground in a prickly cholla cactus or spiky-leaved yucca; the nest is also used for roosting and for shelter in bad weather. It lays 4-7 pinkish eggs, heavily spotted with brown, which are incubated for about 15-17 days by the female bird; the young are ready to leave and fend for themselves about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a large, bulky bird with a long, heavy bill and a rounded tail. It has a brown head, a white eyebrow, is dark brown above streaked with white, with cross barring on wings and tail, white spotting on the outer tail feathers, and dark spotting on the underparts concentrated on the white breast and sparser on the pale rust belly. When foraging, the Cactus Wren searches under leaves and pebbles very carefully for insects; it also eats berries and seeds.



MARSH WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Dense marshland
Identification:	Small, stocky songbird with quite long bill. Brown overall, plain brown cap, black back with white stripes, lightly barred wings and tail, white eyebrow, whitish-buff underparts
Similar species:	Sedge Wren has indistinct eyebrow, streaked crown and back, heavier barred wings

Found across most of North America at different times of the year, the Marsh Wren lives in the dense reeds and cattails of marshes and swamps. It is common, but quite hard to spot as it remains well hidden in the vegetation even when it is singing. Its nest is a ball-shaped mass of cattail leaves and sedges, fastened to reed stems just above the water level in a marsh, in which it lays 5-9 brown, spotted eggs. These are incubated by the female alone for 13-17 days; the young birds leave the nest about 11-15 days after hatching. The adult is a small, stocky bird with a relatively long bill and a short, round tail. It is brown overall, with a plain brown cap, a black back with white stripes, lightly barred wings and tail, a white eyebrow, and whitish-buff underparts. Eastern birds are richer in color, western are duller. The Marsh Wren eats insects and spiders, which it takes from plants or the surface of the water.



SEDGE WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Wet meadows, sedge marshes
Identification:	Small short-tailed songbird with short bill. Buffy-brown overall, narrow streaks on crown and back, barred wings, indistinct whitish eyebrow, buff underparts
Similar species:	Marsh Wren has bold eyebrow, plain crown, white stripes on back, plainer wings

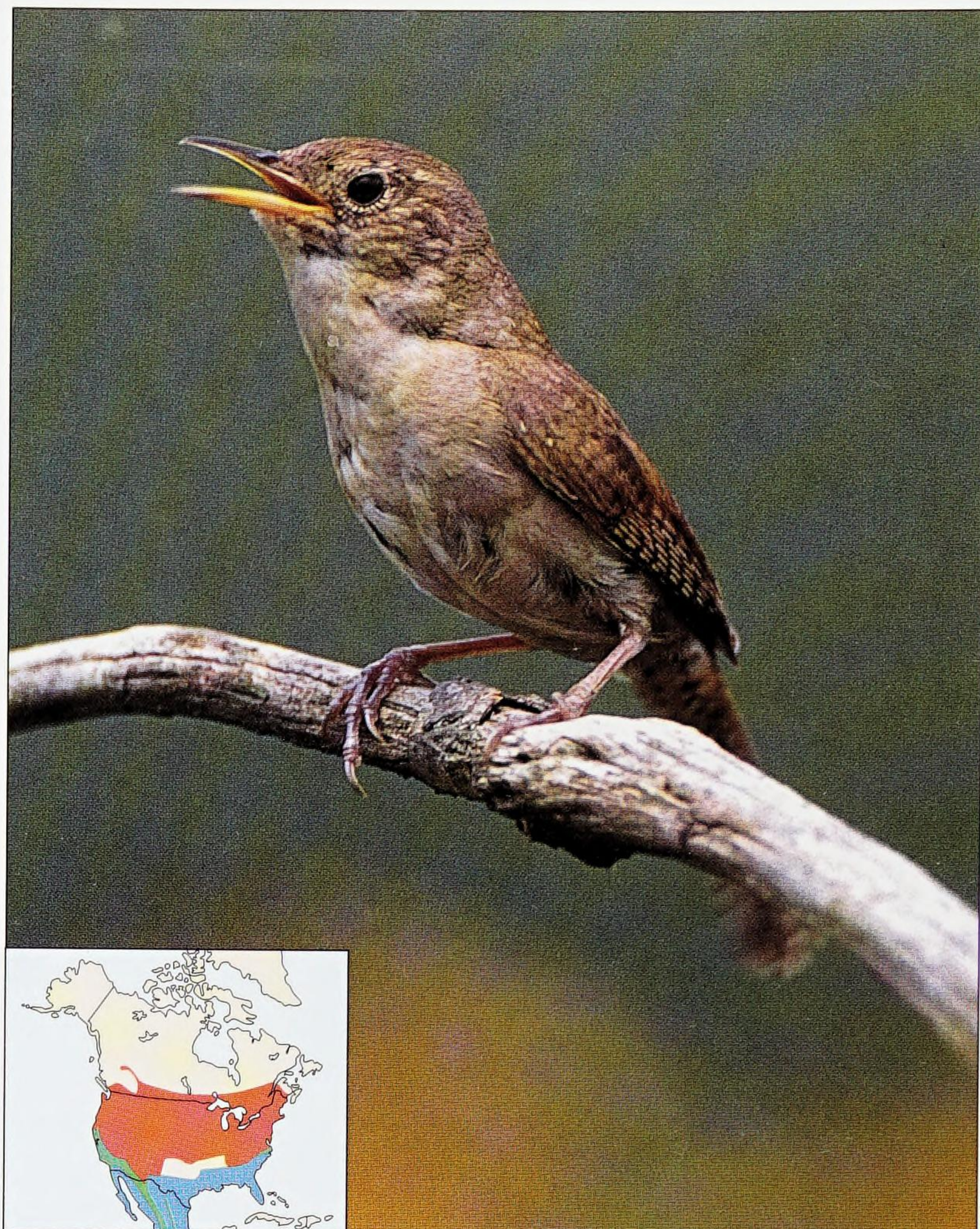
A small, secretive bird, the Sedge Wren hides in dense grass in marshes and sedge meadows. It is locally common across the northeast in summer, spending the winter in the southeast, but is quite hard to spot. Its nest is a ball-shaped mass of grass and sedges, with an entrance at the side, built just above the water level in a marsh. It lays 3-8 white eggs, which are incubated by the female alone for around 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest about 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small bird with a short bill and a short, round tail - when it is alarmed it bobs and flicks the tail upwards. It is buffy-brown overall, with bold narrow streaks on the crown and back, barred wings, an indistinct whitish eyebrow, and buff underparts. Populations of Sedge Wren may be declining, due to destruction of its preferred habitat. It eats insects and spiders.



HOUSE WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Scrubs, farmland, gardens, parks
Identification:	Small, slender songbird with long, slightly curved bill and short tail. Gray-brown above, cross barring on back and tail, faint eyebrow, buffy gray-brown beneath
Similar species:	Winter Wren has more prominent barring on belly and is smaller

Familiar and common across America, the House Wren is found in a variety of habitats and often visits suburban gardens. Its loud, fast, bubbling song is very musical and is heard throughout the summer. It builds a simple nest of twigs and sticks, lined with feathers, in a natural or man-made hole, or in a nesting box. It competes with other birds for a suitable nest site, sometimes throwing out the nest, eggs or chicks of its rival. It lays 5-7 white eggs, finely speckled with brown, which are incubated by the female alone for around 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest about 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, slender bird with a long, slightly curved bill and a short tail, which it may hold upright. It is gray-brown above, with cross barring on the back and tail, a faint eyebrow, and buffy gray-brown underparts - although some birds in the west are more rufous overall. The House Wren eats insects and spiders.



WINTER WREN

Scientific name:	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Length:	4 inches
Habitat:	Dense brush, stream edges, wet conifer woods
Identification:	Small, slender songbird with long, thin bill and short tail. Reddish-brown overall, strong cross barring on back, tail and underparts, faint eyebrow
Similar species:	House Wren has less prominent barring on belly and is larger

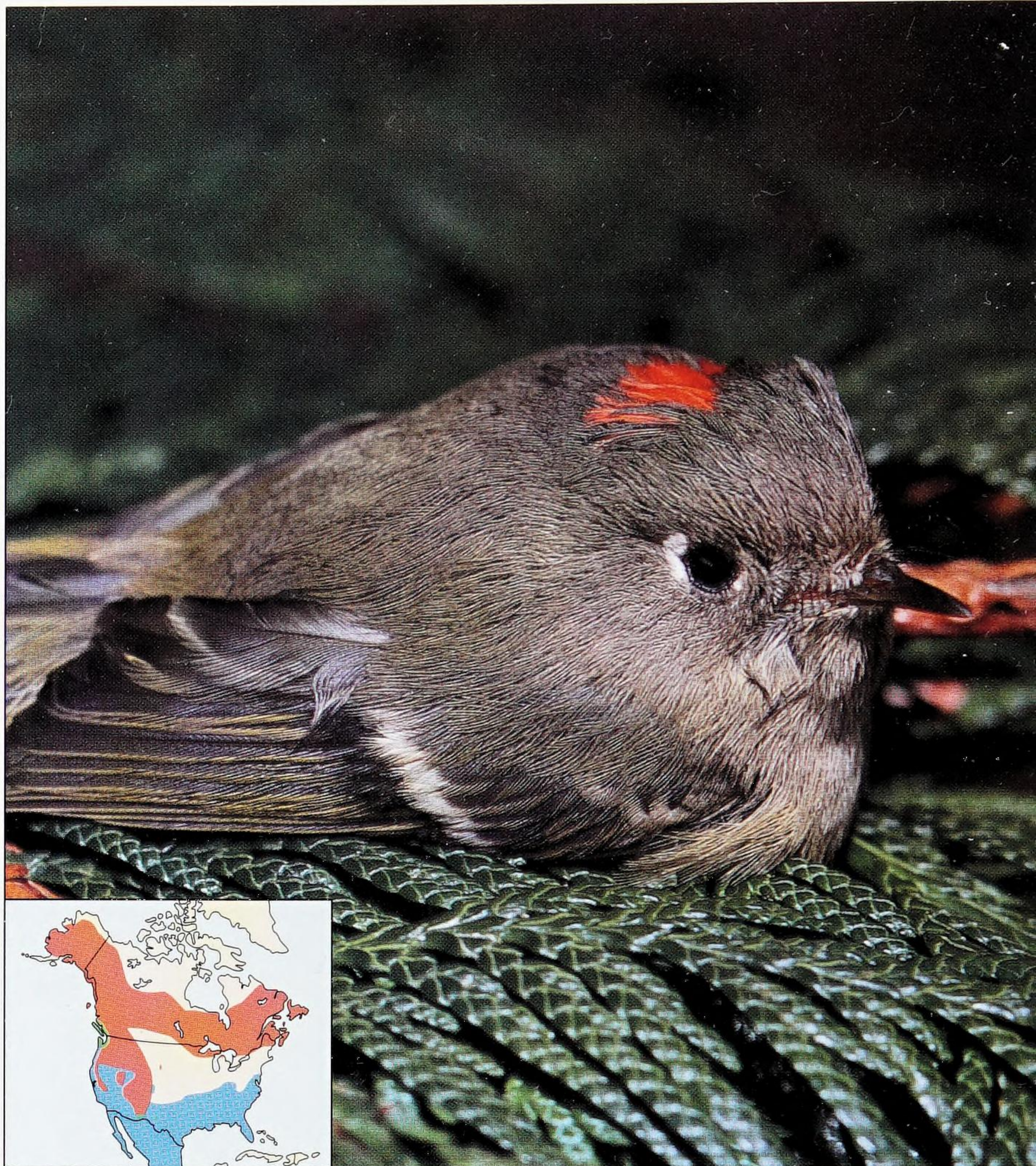
The Winter Wren is found in the damp, evergreen forests of the north in summer and spreads down the west coast and into southeastern America in winter. It is hard to spot, as it creeps around in thick cover - under fallen logs, in dense underbrush and along streamside thickets. It nests in a tree cavity or among the roots of a fallen tree, lining the hole with soft moss and laying 4-7 white eggs, finely speckled with red-brown. These are incubated by the female alone for around 15-17 days; the young birds leave the nest about 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, slender bird with a long, thin bill and a short tail, which it usually holds upright. It is reddish-brown overall with cross barring on the back, tail and underparts. Birds in the northwest are slightly larger and paler. The Winter Wren eats insects.



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

- Scientific name:** *Regulus calendula*
Length: 4¼ inches
Habitat: Woodlands, thickets
Identification: Small songbird with short, slender bill and short, slightly notched tail. Olive-green above, buffy-whitish beneath, white wing bars, incomplete white eye ring. Male has red crown, visible only when raised
Similar species: *Empidonax* flycatchers have longer tails, Hutton's Vireo is larger, has thicker bill and lacks dark area behind wing bar

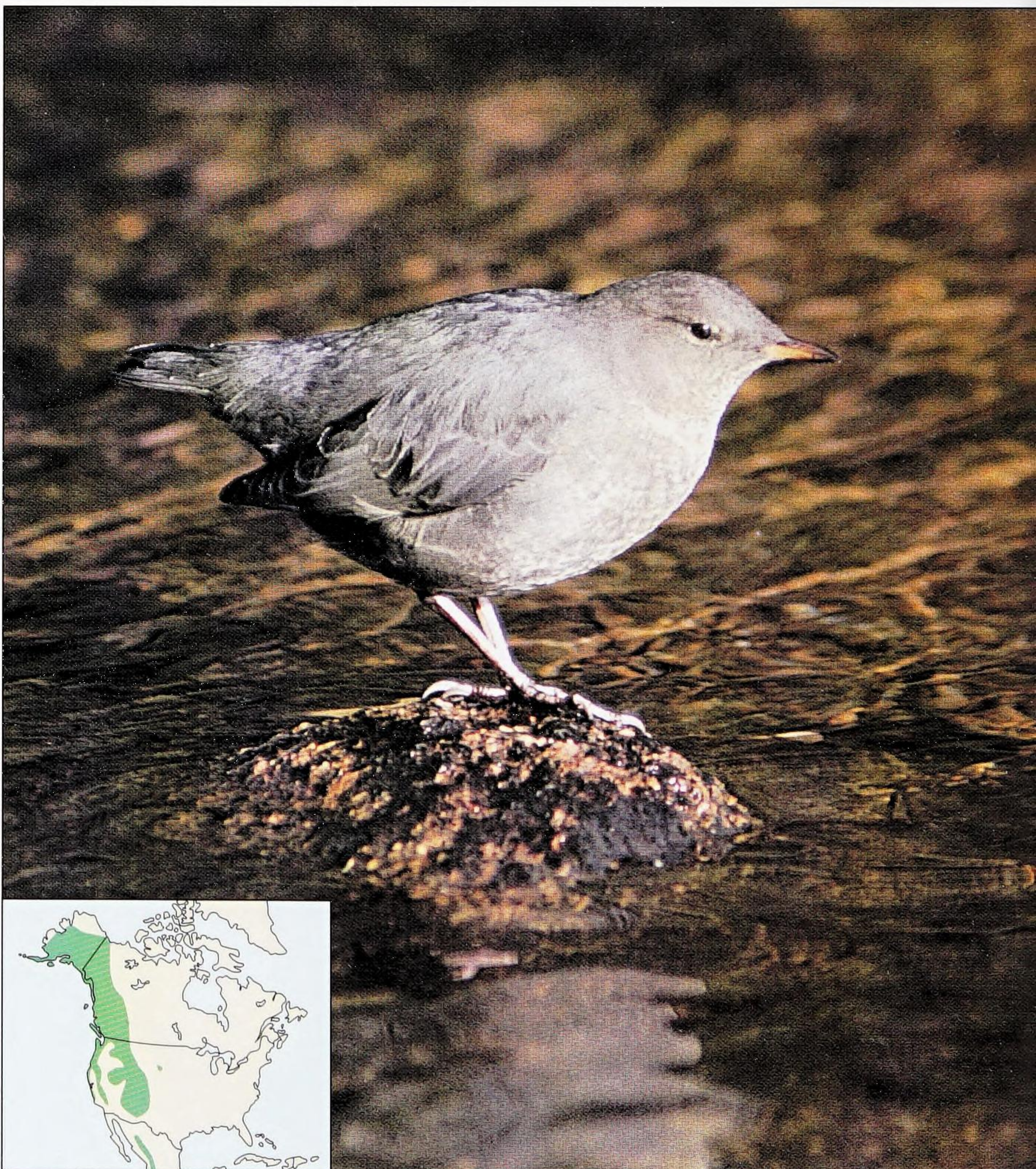
The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is common in the south in winter, but may be difficult to spot in the north in summer, since it spends most of its time high in conifers. In its breeding area it builds a delicate, woven nest with high walls, made of lichens and moss and thickly lined with moss and feathers, with a small entrance at the top and suspended from the tip of a conifer branch up to 100 feet above the ground. It lays 5-11 creamy-white eggs, speckled with brown and gray, which are incubated for around 2 weeks. The adult is a small bird with a small, slender bill and a short, slightly notched tail. It is olive-green above, buffy-whitish beneath, with white wing bars and an incomplete white eye ring. The male has a red crown, which is visible only when raised. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is less sociable than the Golden-crowned and is more often seen foraging alone, but like the other kinglet, it often flicks its wings. It eats caterpillars, spiders, insects and their larvae.

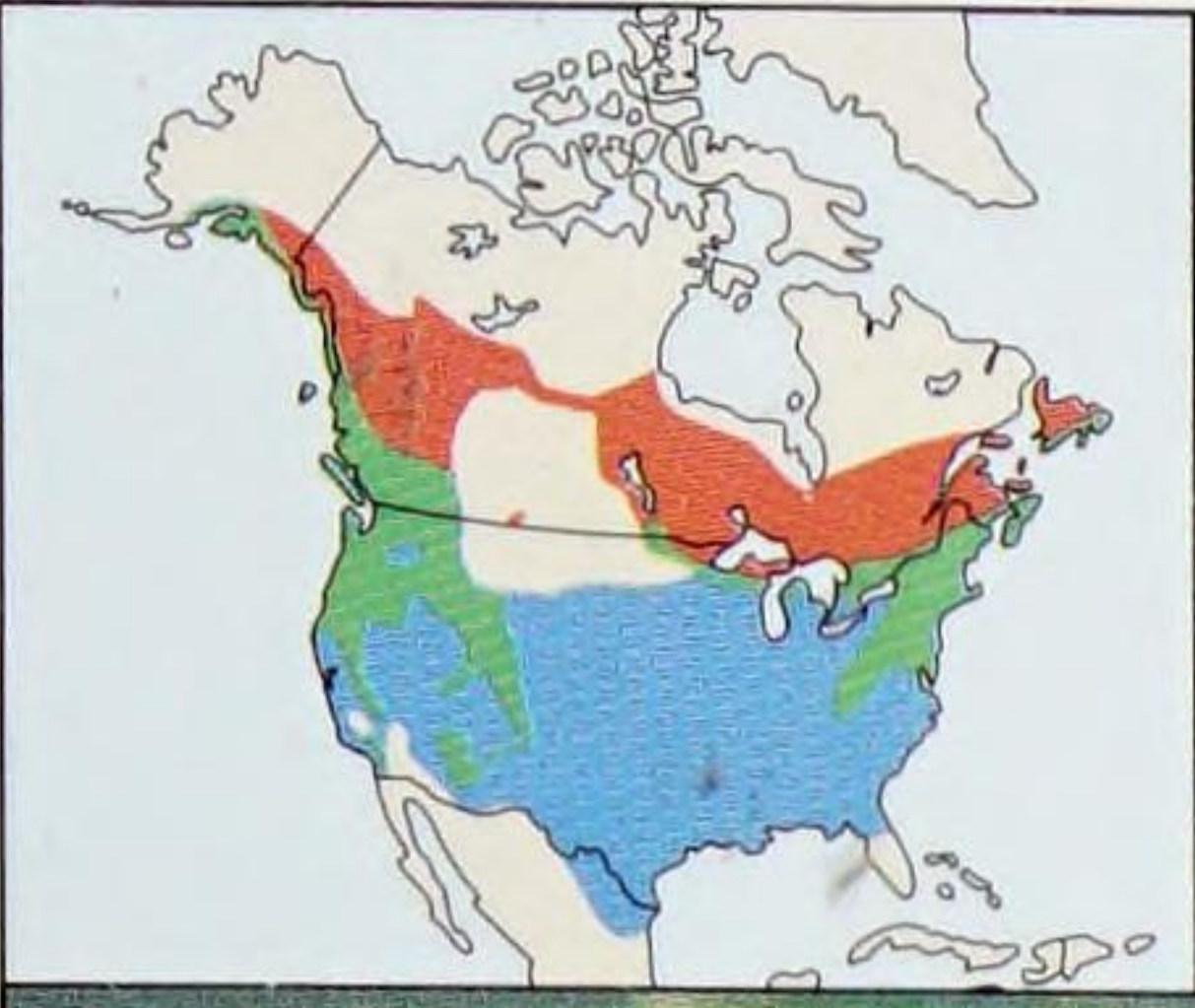


AMERICAN DIPPER

- Scientific name:** *Cinclus mexicanus*
Length: 7½ inches
Habitat: Fast-flowing mountain streams
Identification: Large, stocky aquatic songbird with dark bill and quite long legs. Slate-gray overall, white eyelids seen when blinking
Similar species: The only songbird that swims

The American Dipper is only found along clear, fast-flowing, rocky streams in the west. It is solitary most of the year, and never seen in flocks or away from water. Its nest is bulky, made of grass and moss with an entrance at the side, and built among roots, in a rock crevice, under a bridge or on rocks above the water. It lays 3-6 white eggs, which are incubated by the female alone for 14-17 days; the young birds leave the nest about 21-25 days after hatching. The adult is a relatively large bird with a dark bill, short tail and quite long legs. It is slate-gray overall, with white eyelids that flash when the bird blinks. Juveniles are paler mottled beneath, and have pale edgings to the wings and a pale bill. The American Dipper flies low over the water, or jumps in to swim, dive or walk along the bottom. It eats aquatic insects and water snails.





GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

Scientific name:	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>
Length:	4 inches
Habitat:	Dense coniferous woods
Identification:	Small songbird with short, slender bill and short, slightly notched tail. Olive-green above, whitish beneath, yellow crown bordered with black, white eyebrow, black eyeline, white wing bars
Similar species:	Head coloring distinctive

Although in general it much prefers conifers, the Golden-crowned Kinglet is also found in mixed woodland in winter, foraging in

flocks with other small birds. It has been helped by the advent of conifer plantations - when the mature trees are harvested, the birds can move on to a new plantation home. In its breeding area it builds a delicate nest with high walls, made of lichens and moss and thickly lined with moss and feathers, with a small entrance at the top and suspended from twigs up to 100 feet above the ground in a conifer. It lays 5-11 gray-white eggs, heavily spotted with brown and lilac, which are incubated for around 2 weeks. The adult is a small bird with a short, slender bill and a short, slightly notched tail. It is olive-green above, whitish beneath, with a yellow crown bordered with black, a white eyebrow, black eyeline, and white wing bars. The male has a central orange area to the yellow crown. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is an acrobatic bird that often hangs upside down to feed, hopping among the branches and flicking its wings while foraging; it eats insects and their larvae.



ARCTIC WARBLER

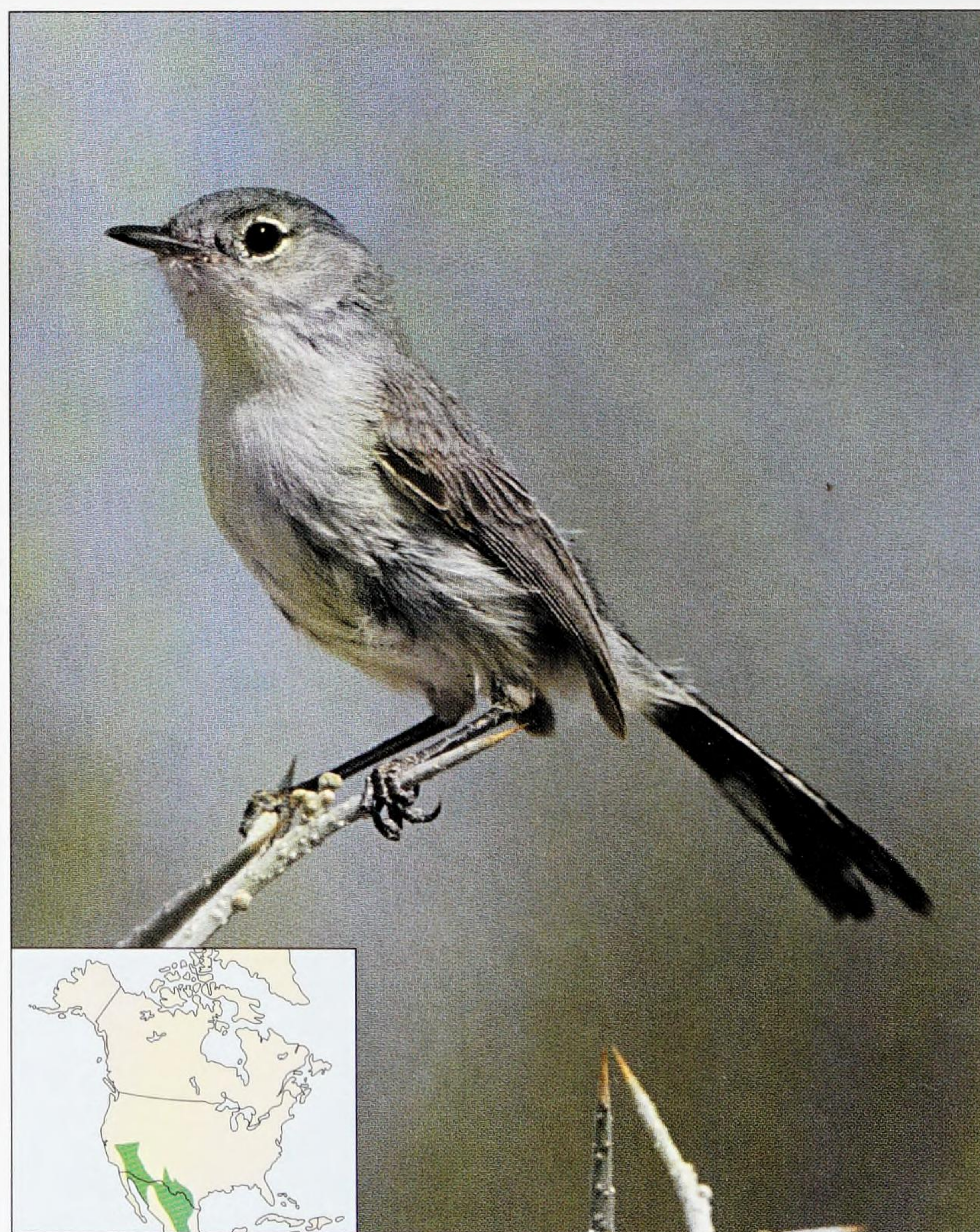
Scientific name:	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Grassy tundra, birch woods and willow thickets
Identification:	Medium-size Arctic bird with square tail. Olive-green above, dark eye line, greenish-yellow eyebrow, whitish throat and belly, olive-gray sides, indistinct single wing bar
Similar species:	Closely resembles Tennessee Warbler but their ranges do not overlap

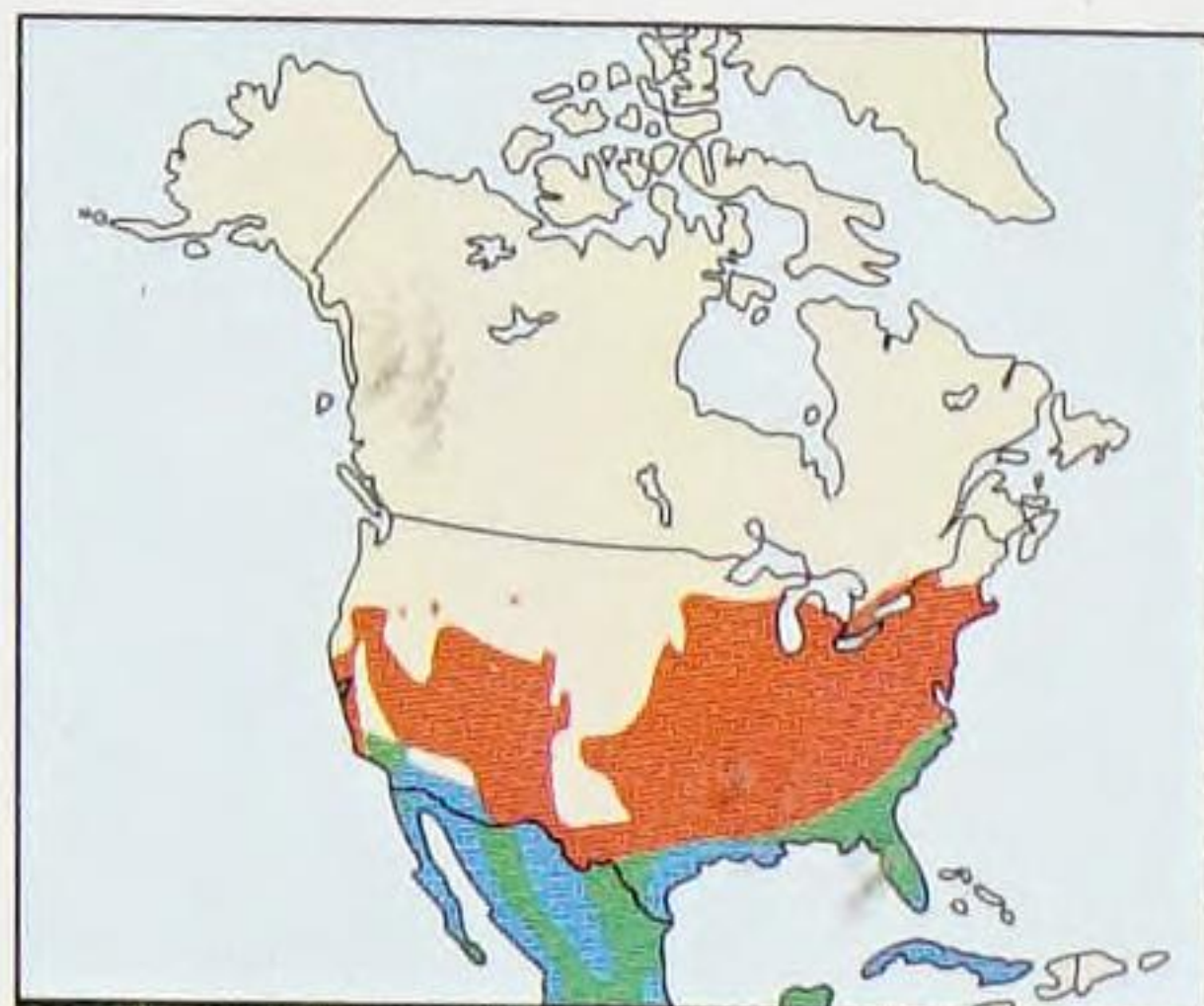
The Arctic Warbler is not related to American warblers; it comes from a large family of very similar colored Old World warblers. Its ancestors came from the Asian mainland after the last glacial age and it is now very common in western Alaska during the summer months, also ranging across Siberia and as far as Norway, but returning to southern Asia in the winter. It prefers birch woods and dense willow thickets along rivers, but nests on grassy Arctic tundra, building a domed, cup nest on the ground to hold its 5-7 white, pink-speckled eggs. The adult is a medium-size bird with a square tail and pale, straw-colored legs and feet. It is olive-green above, with a broad, dark eye line, a pale greenish-yellow eyebrow, a whitish throat and belly, olive-gray sides and a single indistinct wing bar. Both male and female have the same coloring. Like other warblers, the Arctic Warbler mostly eats insects.

BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHER

Scientific name:	<i>Poliophtila melanura</i>
Length:	4 inches
Habitat:	Desert, mesquite brush, open flats
Identification:	Small gnatcatcher with short, thin bill and rounded wings. Gray above, white beneath, long black tail with white tips to outer feathers so tail looks black with white spots from beneath, narrow white eye ring, thin white edging to secondary wing feathers. Male has black crown in summer
Similar species:	In winter the species of gnatcatcher can look very similar, but the Blue-gray has a tail that is mostly white when seen from beneath

The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher is a desert bird, which prefers dense mesquite brush, dry washes and open flats. It is fairly common within its limited North American range. It builds a small, cup-shaped nest of grass, bark and plant fibers in mesquite, a desert bush or a low tree. It lays 4-6 pale blue eggs, spotted with brown, which are incubated for about 2 weeks by both adult birds; the young are independent around 9-12 days after hatching. The adult is a small bird with a short, thin bill and rounded wings. It is gray above and white beneath, with a narrow white eye ring, thin white edging to the secondary wing feathers and a long black tail that has white tips to the outer feathers so it looks black with white spots from beneath. The male has a black crown in the breeding period. The female is slightly less gray and more brownish. The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher eats spiders and insects.





BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER

Scientific name: *Poliophtila caerulea*

Length: 4½ inches

Habitat: Leafy woodlands, thickets

Identification: Small long-tailed gnatcatcher with long, pale bill and rather pointed wings. Blue-gray above, white beneath, long black tail with white outer feathers so tail looks white from beneath, narrow white eye ring, white edging to secondary wing feathers. Male has black eyebrow in summer

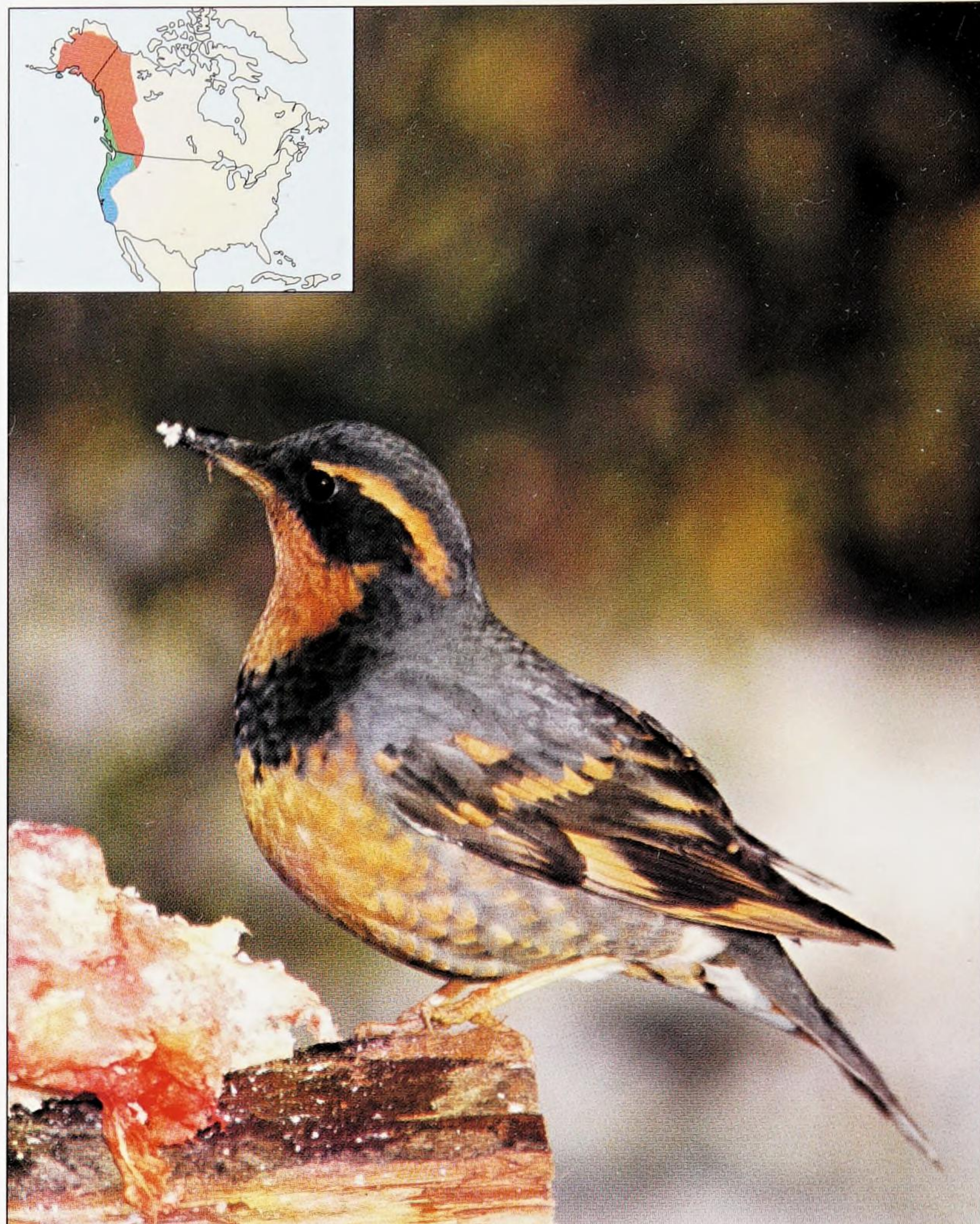
Similar species: In winter the species of gnatcatcher can look very similar, but the Black-tailed has a tail that is mostly black when seen from beneath

In the east, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lives high in leafy trees in summer, but in the west it tends to be found lower in oaks and junipers. It is quite common in both areas, but is perhaps easier to spot at lower levels. It builds a tiny, woven nest of grass, bark and plant fibers, camouflaged on the outside with pieces of lichen, on the branch of a tree up to 70 feet above the ground. It lays 4 or 5 pale blue eggs, sometimes spotted with brown, which are incubated for about 2 weeks by both adult birds; the young are ready to be independent around 9-12 days after hatching. The adult is a small bird with a long tail, a long, pale bill and rather pointed wings. It is blue-gray above and white beneath, with a narrow white eye ring, white edging to the secondary wing feathers and a long black tail that has white outer feathers so it looks white from beneath. The male has a black eyebrow in the breeding period. The female is slightly less blue and more gray. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is a very lively bird that constantly flicks its tail upward as it forages for spiders and insects.

VARIED THRUSH

Scientific name: *Ixoreus naevius*
Length: 9½ inches
Habitat: Dense wet woods, conifer forest
Identification: Large, long-necked songbird with short tail. Slate-gray above, rust-orange eyebrow, throat and breast, broad slate-black breast band, whitish belly. Buff wingstripe seen in flight
Similar species: Plumage distinctive

Within its limited North American range, the Varied Thrush is common. It prefers dense, wet woodland - particularly coniferous forests - but is a fairly shy and elusive bird. It nests in trees, building a large, sturdy cup of stems, twigs, leaves and mud, lined with moss, to hold its 3-5 pale blue, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated by the female bird for about 2 weeks. The adult is a large, long-necked bird with a short tail. It is slate-gray above, with a rust-orange eyebrow, throat and breast, a broad slate-black breast band and a whitish belly. The female is paler and juveniles lack the breast band and are speckled beneath with a whitish belly. In flight, all birds show a distinctive buff wingstripe. The Varied Thrush mostly stays hidden in trees and undergrowth, although it does forage in open areas for earthworms. It also eats insects, spiders, nuts, seeds and fruit.



WOOD THRUSH

Scientific name: *Hylocichla mustelina*
Length: 7¾ inches
Habitat: Wet woodland, shady suburbs
Identification: Stocky, short-tailed songbird. Red-brown above, rump and tail browner, whitish beneath with large dark spots, large dark eye, white eye ring, streaked face
Similar species: Brown Thrasher has striped, rather than spotted breast, yellow eyes, longer tail

The largest of the spotted thrushes, the Wood Thrush is found in leafy and mixed woodland across the east in summer; migrating south in fall. Although it is still fairly common, numbers have been decreasing. It nests up to 50 feet above the ground in a tree, building a sturdy and compact cup of grass, twigs and mud, lined with moss, in which it lays 2-5 bluish-green eggs. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young are ready to leave the nest about 12-14 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky, short-tailed bird with a rather rounded belly and a relatively large bill. Its plumage is red-brown above, browner towards the rump and tail, whitish beneath with large, round, dark spots, and it has a large dark eye, a white eye ring, and a streaked face. The Wood Thrush forages on the ground in thick undergrowth, looking for berries, insects, spiders and earthworms. It is popular with gardeners as it eats a range of garden pests.





AMERICAN ROBIN

Scientific name:	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Length:	10 inches
Habitat:	Woodland, swamps, urban parks and gardens
Identification:	Large, sturdy songbird with long legs and tail. Gray-brown above, white throat, red-orange breast, blackish head and tail, yellow bill
Similar species:	Plumage distinctive

Common and widespread, the American Robin is one of the best-known American birds and is often seen in suburban gardens. In

summer it spreads right up into Canada and the far north, but it is found all year round across most of America. It nests in shrubs, trees or on buildings, building a sturdy cup of roots, twigs and mud, lined with soft material, to hold its 3 or 4 blue eggs. These are incubated by the female bird, with the young leaving the nest around 2-3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a large, sturdy bird with long legs and tail. It is gray-brown above, with a white throat, red-orange breast, yellow bill and a blackish head and tail. The female is duller and juveniles lack the red breast and are spotted beneath. The American Robin often forages on lawns with its head held cocked, looking for earthworms; it also eats insects and berries.



SWAINSON'S THRUSH

Scientific name:	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Wet cool woodland, swamps
Identification:	Slender plain songbird. Olive-brown above, white belly, pale olive-brown flanks, dark spotting on buff breast, buff eye ring
Similar species:	All the <i>catharus</i> thrushes are very similar, mainly told apart by range and song

Fairly common across the north and west in summer, Swainson's Thrush is found in dense, moist woodland and swamps. It migrates south in fall, flying at night and feeding and resting in the day, to spend the winter in South America. In its breeding area it nests low down in a coniferous tree, building a tight cup of leaves, twigs and roots, lined with moss. It lays 3-5 blue eggs, spotted with buff-brown, which are incubated for around 10-14 days; the young are ready to leave the nest about 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a slender, plain bird; its song is clear and fluty, rising up the scale in a series of notes, and its call a soft *whit*. Its plumage is olive-brown above, with a white belly, pale olive-brown flanks, dark spotting on a buff breast and a buff eye ring. Western birds are much more reddish-brown, with fainter spotting on the breast. Swainson's Thrush forages in shady undergrowth for berries, insects, spiders and earthworms.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (above)

Scientific name:	<i>Catharus minimus</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed woodland
Identification:	Large, long-winged songbird. Olive-brown above, white beneath, olive-gray flanks, paler round eye, pale gray face and throat, heavy spotting on breast
Similar species:	All the <i>catharus</i> thrushes are very similar, mainly told apart by range and song

The Gray-cheeked Thrush is found in the mixed and coniferous forests of the far north in summer, and migrates across east and central America to spend the winter in Central and South America. It may be hard to spot, as it is a shy bird that keeps mostly under cover. In its breeding area, it nests near the ground in a bush or low in a tree, building a neat cup of grass, leaves, bark and mud. It lays 3-5 pale greeny-blue eggs, lightly dotted with brown, which are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female; the young are ready to leave the nest about 10-14 days after hatching. The adult is a long-winged bird; its song is a nasal *vee-oh vee vee vee-oh* and its call *veeyah*. Its plumage is olive-brown above and white beneath, with olive-gray flanks, a paler area round the eye, a pale gray face and throat, and heavy spotting on the breast. The Grey-cheeked Thrush searches for berries, insects, spiders and earthworms on the ground.

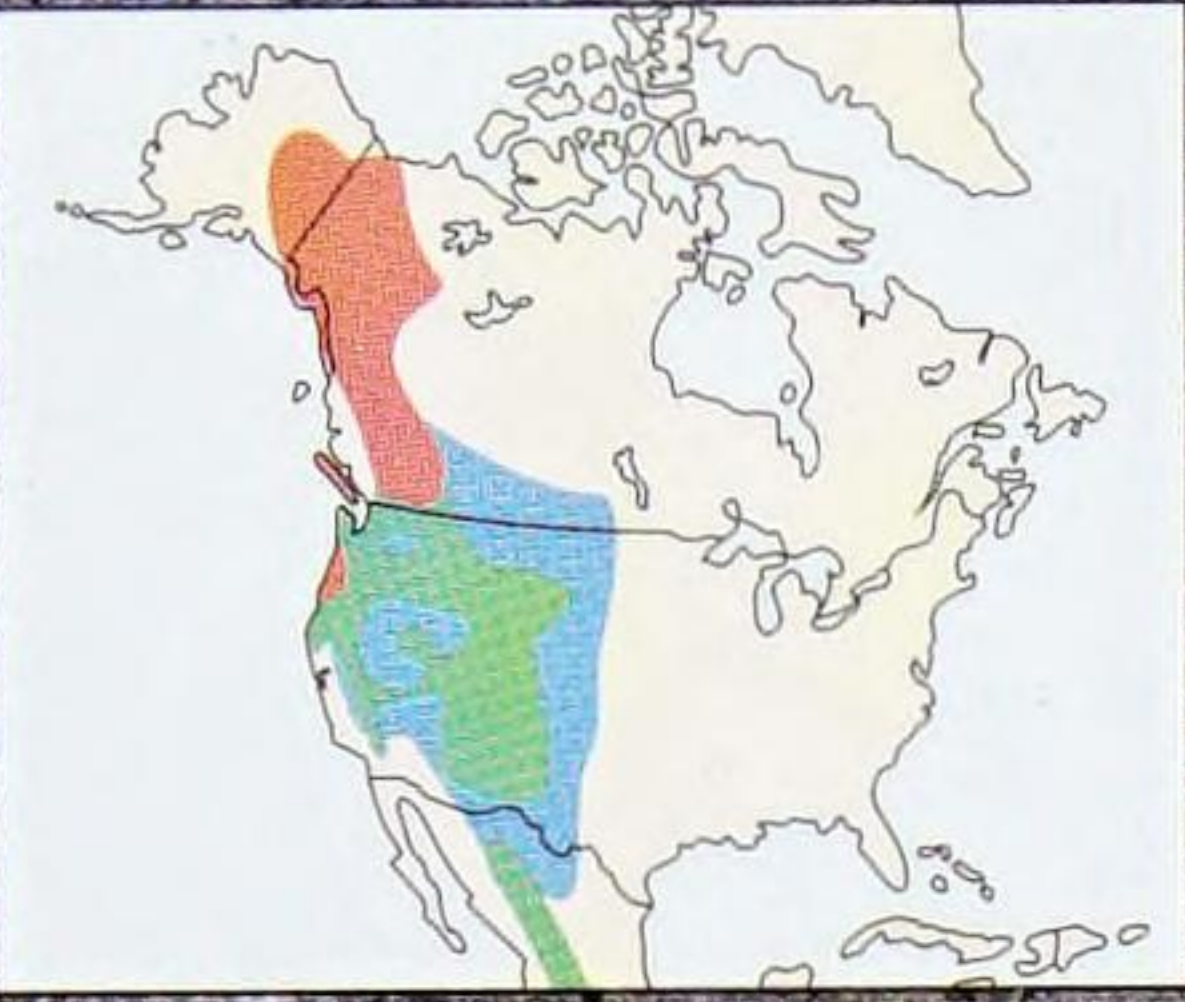
HERMIT THRUSH

Scientific name:	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed woodland
Identification:	Stocky, short-winged songbird. Olive-brown above, reddish tail, whitish belly, pale olive-gray flanks, black-brown spotting on buff breast, white eye ring
Similar species:	All the <i>catharus</i> thrushes are very similar, mainly told apart by range and song

In summer, the Hermit Thrush is found in coniferous and mixed woodland across the north; it spends the winter in the south and

down into Mexico. It is widespread and common, but spends much of its time in dense undergrowth. In its breeding area it nests on or just above the ground, building a neat cup of grass, leaves and rootlets, lined with moss, in which it lays 3-5 bluish-green eggs. These are incubated by the female for around 12-14 days; the young are ready to leave the nest about 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky, short-winged bird; its song is loud and slow, with similar phrases repeated moving up and down the scale, and its call a soft *chup*. Its plumage is olive-brown above, with a reddish tail, whitish belly, pale olive-gray flanks, black-brown spotting on a buff breast and a white eye ring. The Hermit Thrush forages on the ground in dense cover for berries, insects, spiders and earthworms.



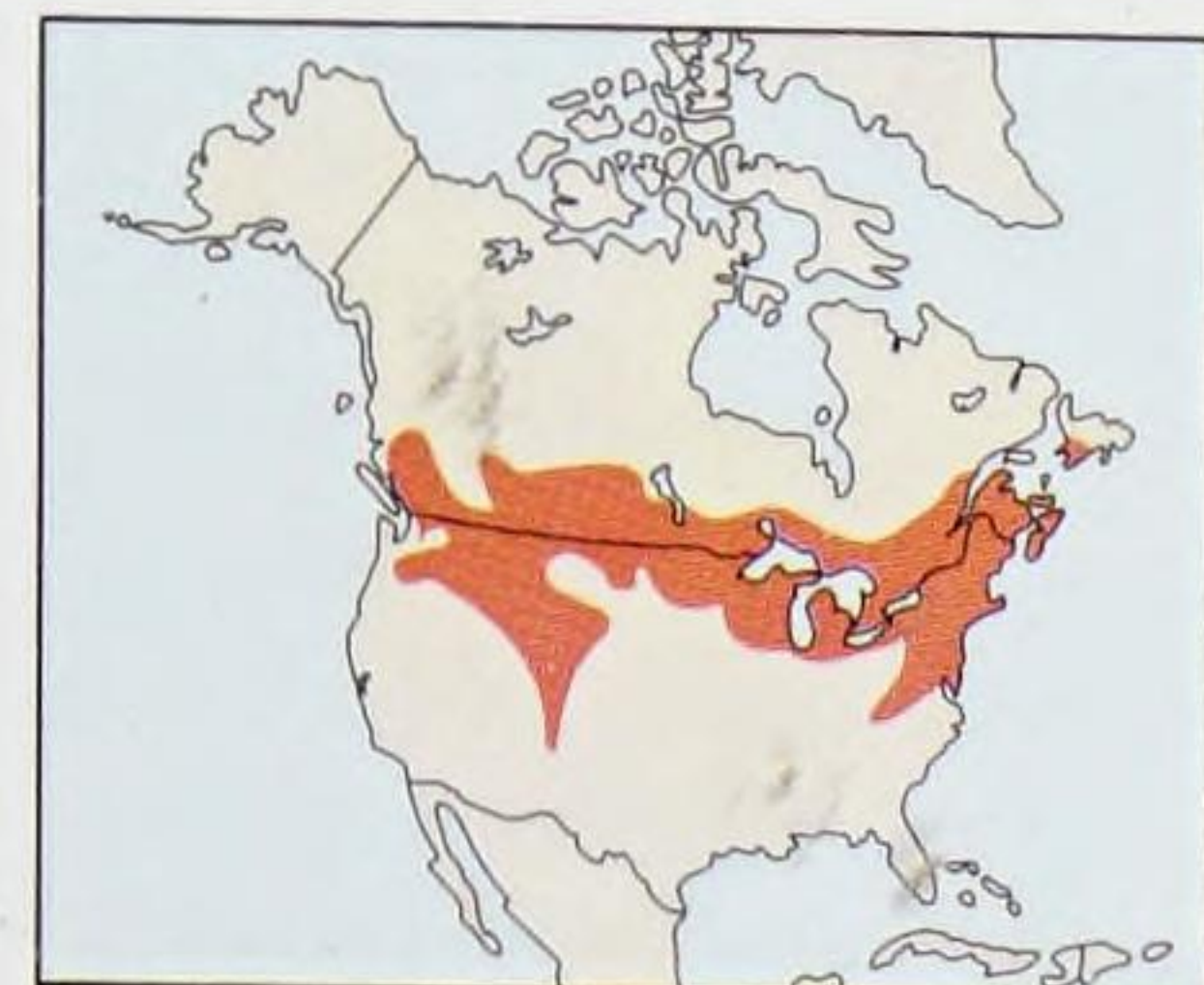


TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE

Scientific name:	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Mountain coniferous forests, valleys, juniper woods
Identification:	Large, slender, long-tailed songbird with short bill and small head. Gray overall, slightly darker above, bold white eye ring, white outer tail feathers, pale rusty-buff wing patch
Similar species:	Mockingbird lacks eye ring and buffy wing patch, perches less upright

As its name implies, Townsend's Solitaire is never found in flocks. It is actually a member of the thrush family that prefers to live in

mountainous woodland - although there are other mountain-forest thrushes in the New World, this is the only one found in North America. It may move to lower elevations during the winter and is sometimes even seen in desert oases. It nests on the ground, either among tree roots, in a shallow hole in a bank or in a crevice of a rock, building a large, loose cup of weeds, grass and rootlets. It lays 3 or 4 gray-white eggs, with brown speckles concentrated at the larger rounded end and tailing off towards the point. The adult is a large, slender, long-tailed bird with a short bill and a small head. Its plumage is gray overall, slightly darker above, and it has a bold white eye ring, white outer tail feathers, and a pale rusty-buff wing patch. The juvenile is mottled gray and white. Townsend's Solitaire forages on the ground for berries and insects, but will also eat spiders and pine nuts.



VEERY

Scientific name:	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Dense wet woods, streamside thickets
Identification:	Slender plain songbird. Tawny-brown above, white belly, pale gray flanks, pale buff face and throat, pale spotting on breast
Similar species:	All the <i>catharus</i> thrushes are very similar, they are mainly told apart by their range and differences in their song

A rather secretive bird that lives in dense shade, the Veery is common in moist, leafy woods in the northeast in summer, but is

somewhat rarer in the west. It is usually very hard to spot, as it slips away through the undergrowth upon any close approach. It migrates at night across much of the east to spend the winter in South America. In its breeding area, it nests on or very near the ground, either at the base of a bush or among weeds, building a tight cup of leaves, stems and grass. It lays 3-5 pale blue eggs, which are incubated for around 9-12 days, and the young are ready to leave the nest about 9-10 days after hatching. The adult is a slender, plain bird; its song is a descending whistled *veer* and its call a soft *veeyew*. Its plumage is tawny-brown above, with a white belly, pale gray flanks, a pale buff face and throat, and pale spotting on the breast. Western birds are duller, with more spotting on the breast. The Veery mainly forages on the ground, for berries, insects, spiders and earthworms.



MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	High open country, mountain meadows
Identification:	Medium-size songbird with long tail and wings. Male sky blue, lighter blue breast, white belly. Female gray with brown tint, blue wash on wings, rump and tail, white belly
Similar species:	Pale blue of male is distinctive, Indigo Bunting is darker blue with thicker bill. Female has longer wings and tail than other bluebirds

The Mountain Bluebird prefers open areas at higher altitude in summer, as long as there are stands of trees nearby for cover. In the winter it will come lower down, and also migrates further south. It nests in a natural cavity, woodpecker hole or will even use a nesting box, lining the bottom of its chosen site with grass, bark chips and feathers. It lays 4-6 pale blue-green eggs, which are incubated for around 2 weeks. The adult is slightly more slender than other bluebirds, with a longer tail and wings. The male is sky blue with a lighter blue breast and a white belly. The female is gray with a brown tint, and has a blue wash on wings, rump and tail and a white belly; some have a rufous wash on the throat and breast. The juvenile is similar to the female, but is spotted beneath. The Mountain Bluebird often hovers low over the ground, or darts out from a branch to catch insects and spiders. In fall and winter it also eats berries.

WESTERN BLUEBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Woodlands, farmland, open country
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed songbird with stout bill and short wings. Male deep blue above, blue throat, chestnut breast and flanks, blue-grayish belly and undertail coverts. Female brownish-gray above, throat gray, breast and flanks washed chestnut
Similar species:	Eastern Bluebird has chestnut throat and white belly, Lazuli Bunting has two white wing bars and thicker bill

Widespread and quite common across much of the west, the Western Bluebird often gathers in large flocks in winter. It nests in a natural cavity or woodpecker hole up to 40 feet above the ground, lining the bottom with a loose cup of grass. It lays 4-6 pale blue eggs, which are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young are independent about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky, short-tailed bird with a stout bill and short wings. The male is deep blue above, with a blue throat, chestnut breast and flanks, and a blue-grayish belly and undertail coverts. The female is brownish-gray above, with a plain gray throat and breast and flanks washed chestnut. The juvenile is very similar to the female, but is grayer with speckling beneath. The Western Bluebird eats insects and spiders in summer, but in fall and winter turns to berries.

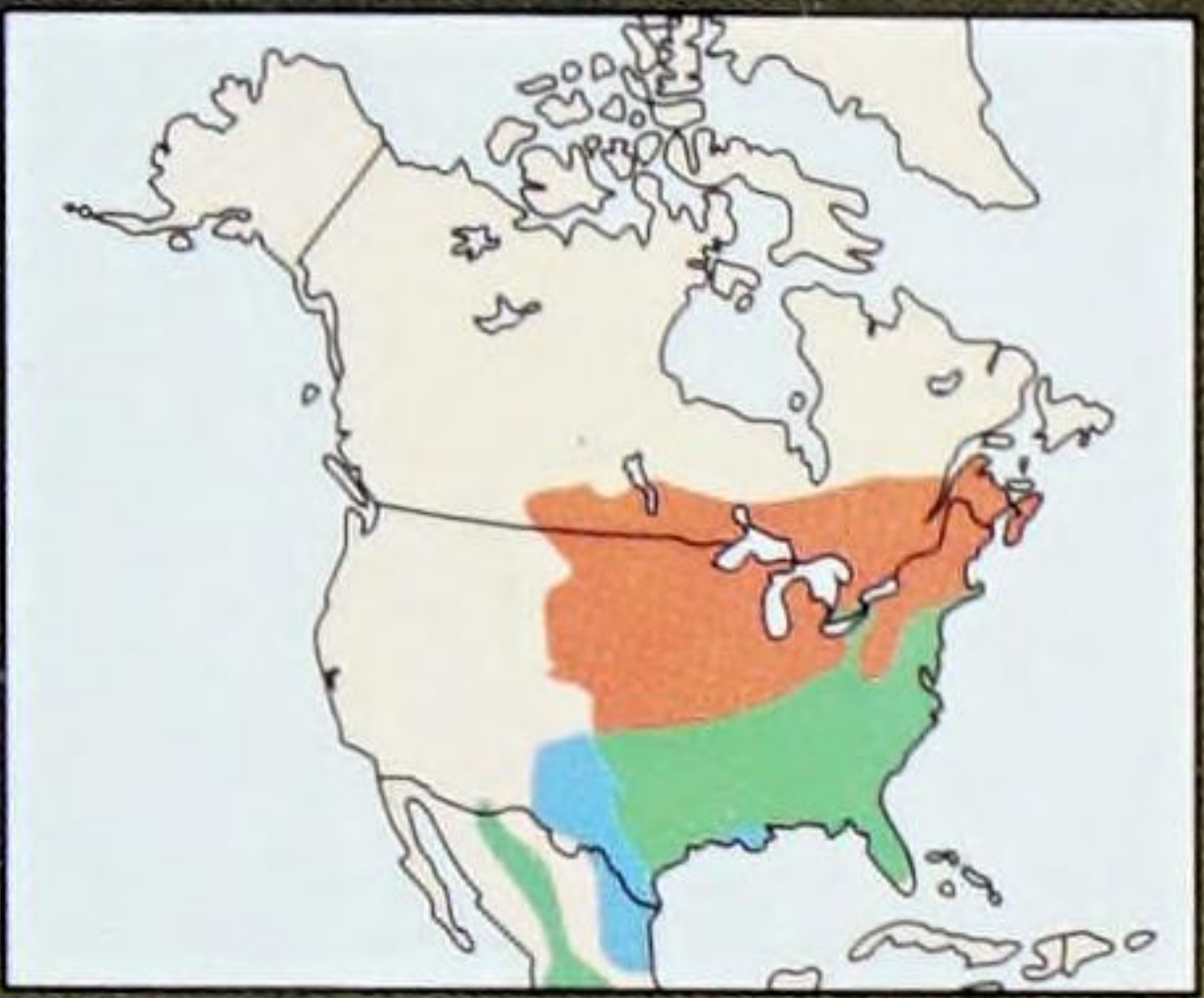


EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Sialia sialis</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Open woodland, farmland, parks, forest edge
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed songbird with stout bill and short wings. Deep blue above, chestnut throat, sides of neck, breast and flanks, white belly and undertail coverts. Female is grayer
Similar species:	Western Bluebird has blue throat and blue-gray belly

Found in small groups in open country, often perched on wires or fence posts, the Eastern Bluebird was once in decline due to

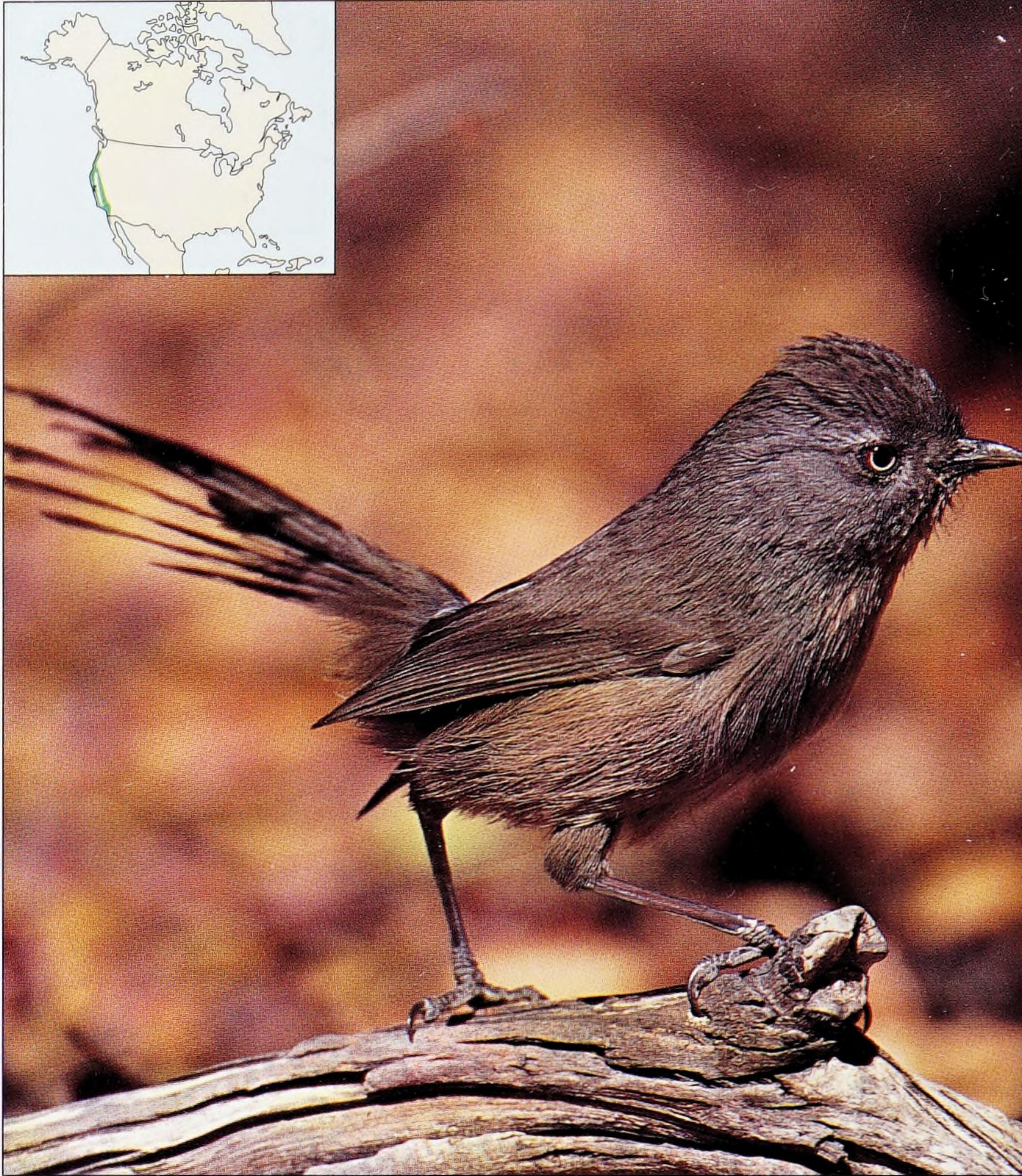
competition with other birds for suitable nesting sites. Specially-designed nesting boxes have reversed this trend and it will use these, or a natural cavity or woodpecker hole, lining the bottom with a loose cup-shape made of grass and plant stems. It lays 2-7 pale blue-white eggs, which are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young are independent about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky, short-tailed bird with a stout bill and short wings. It is deep blue above, with a chestnut throat, sides of neck, breast and flanks, and a white belly and undertail coverts. The female is grayer, the juvenile brownish and heavily spotted, but with a trace of blue above. The Eastern Bluebird eats insects, spiders and berries and will also visit bird feeders.



WRENTIT

Scientific name:	<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>
Length:	6½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous brushland, dense thickets, chaparral
Identification:	Small, long-tailed songbird with large head and stout bill. Overall brown, streaked breast, white eyes
Similar species:	Only bird of its kind

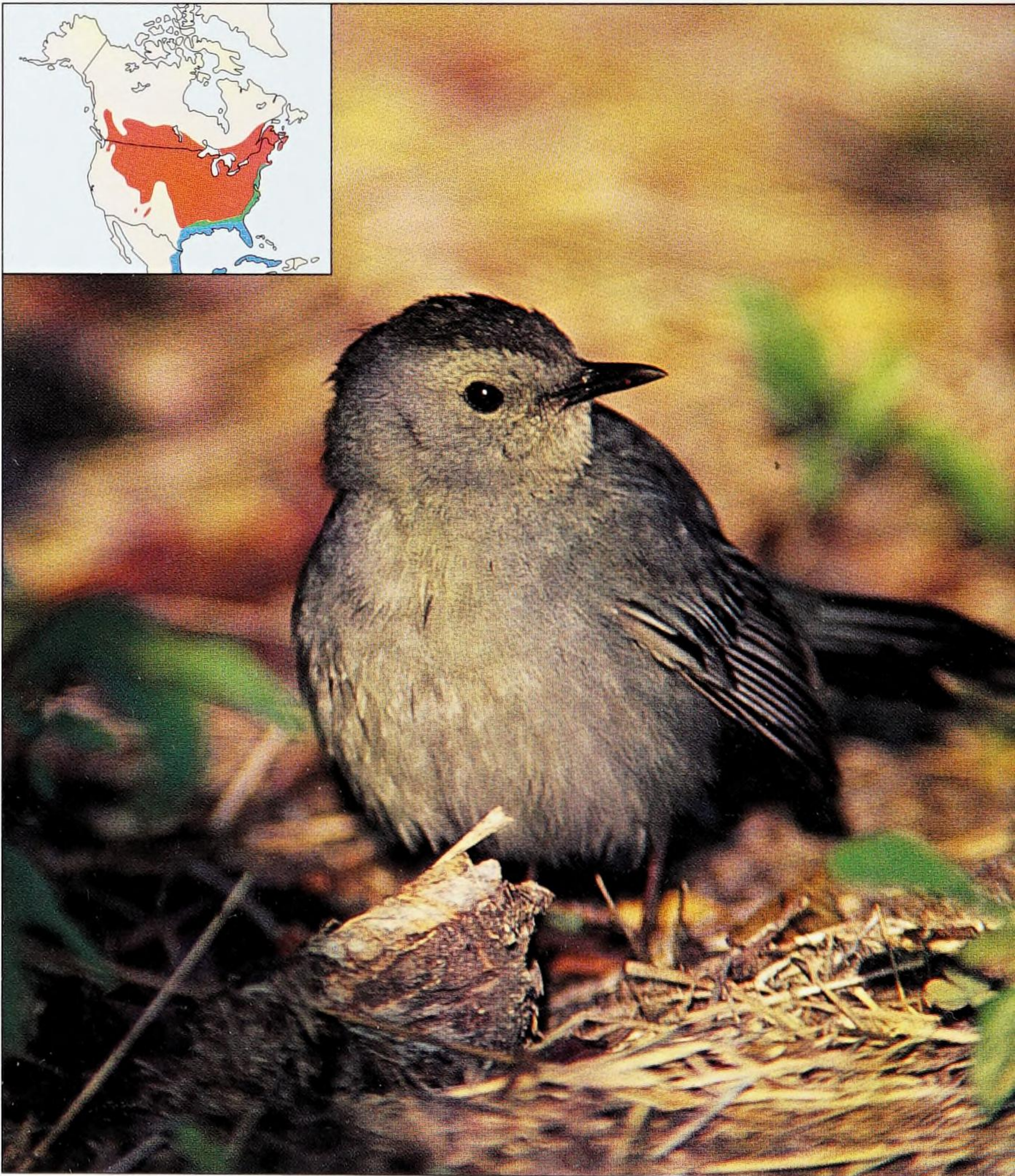
The Wrentit is part of an Old World family, and is the only bird of its kind in North America. It is only found along the west coast, where it is common in chaparral and coniferous brushland, but as it hides in the undergrowth it may be difficult to spot. It nests in dense shrubs, building a neat and compact cup of plant fiber and bark, held together with spider web, to hold its 3-5 pale greenish-blue eggs. These are incubated by the female bird for about 1 week; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 15-17 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small bird with a large head, stout bill and a long tail that it usually holds upright. It is brown overall, with a dark streaked breast and distinctive white eyes. Birds in the north are redder, while those in the south are a more gray-brown. The Wrentit mates for life and stays very much in the same area, being reluctant to cross open spaces. It eats insects, spiders and berries.

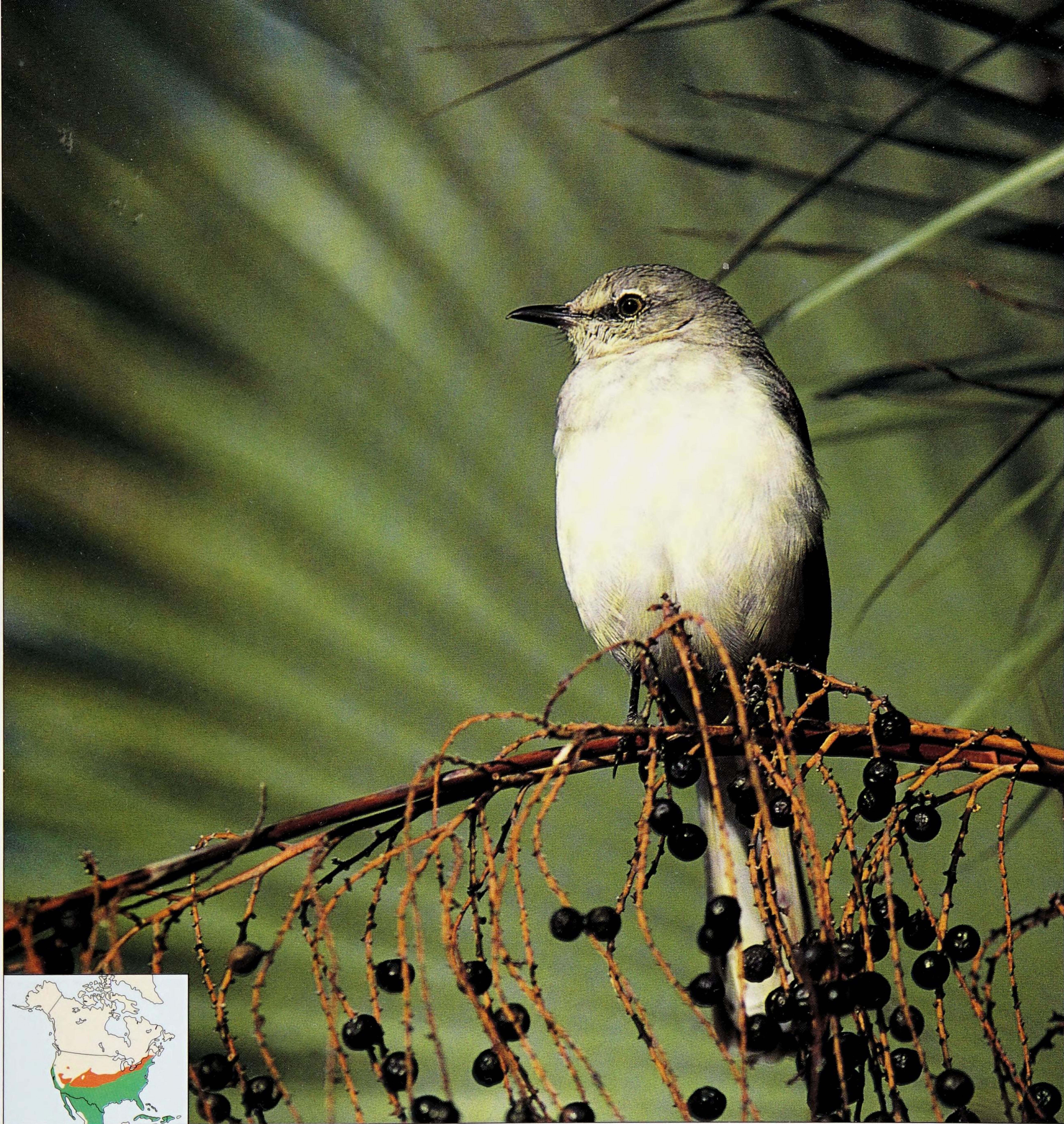


GRAY CATBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Woodland thickets, dense garden shrubs
Identification:	Slender, long-tailed songbird. Overall slate-gray, black cap, chestnut-red under tail
Similar species:	Coloring is distinctive

Very common in the east in summer, the Gray Catbird is rarely found west of the Rockies. Its call sounds like the mewing of a cat, hence its name, and it is often found in suburban gardens as well as in dense woodland thickets. It nests fairly low down in a tree or dense shrub, building a rough cup of twigs and stems, lined with rootlets, to hold its 3-5 bluish-green eggs. These are incubated by the female bird for about 12-14 days; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 9-15 days later. The adult is a slender bird with a long tail that it often holds upright, and is slate-gray overall, with a black cap and chestnut-red under the tail. The Gray Catbird is an excellent mimic, copying all the birdsongs in the area and adding its own shrieks and whistles. It forages on the ground for insects, either in dense cover or out in the open, and also eats berries in late summer and fall.





NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>
Length:	10 inches
Habitat:	Woodland, urban gardens, desert, farmland
Identification:	Slender, long-tailed songbird with long legs and short bill. Gray above, white beneath, two white wing bars. In flight, tail is black with white outer feathers, large white wing patch
Similar species:	Coloring and shape are distinctive

A bird that prefers warmer climates, the Northern Mockingbird is found across the south - its name comes because there are other mockingbirds in the Southern Hemisphere. It nests low down in a

tree or shrub, building a cup of twigs lined with soft plant fibers, to hold its 3-5 blue-green eggs. These are incubated by the female bird for about 12-13 days; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 9-12 days later. The adult is a slender bird with a long tail that it often flicks sideways. It is gray above and white beneath, with two white wing bars. In flight, its tail is black with white outer feathers, and it flashes large white wing patches. It is an excellent mimic, not only copying birdsongs but also the sound of cars, machinery and sirens. The Northern Mockingbird is very territorial and defends its ground aggressively. It likes open grassy areas for feeding, with nearby foliage to hide its nest, and perches for the male to sing and warn off intruders - so suburban gardens are an ideal habitat. It eats insects, spiders and berries; often flashing its wings while foraging on the ground - possibly to scare insects out of hiding.

BENDIRE'S THRASHER

Scientific name:	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>
Length:	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open farmland, grassland, brushy desert
Identification:	Medium-size, plain, long-tailed songbird. Light gray-brown overall, lighter beneath, arrow-shaped spots on breast, yellow eyes, white corners to tail
Similar species:	Curve-billed Thrasher has longer, darker, more down-curved bill, orange-yellow eyes, but juvenile can look almost identical

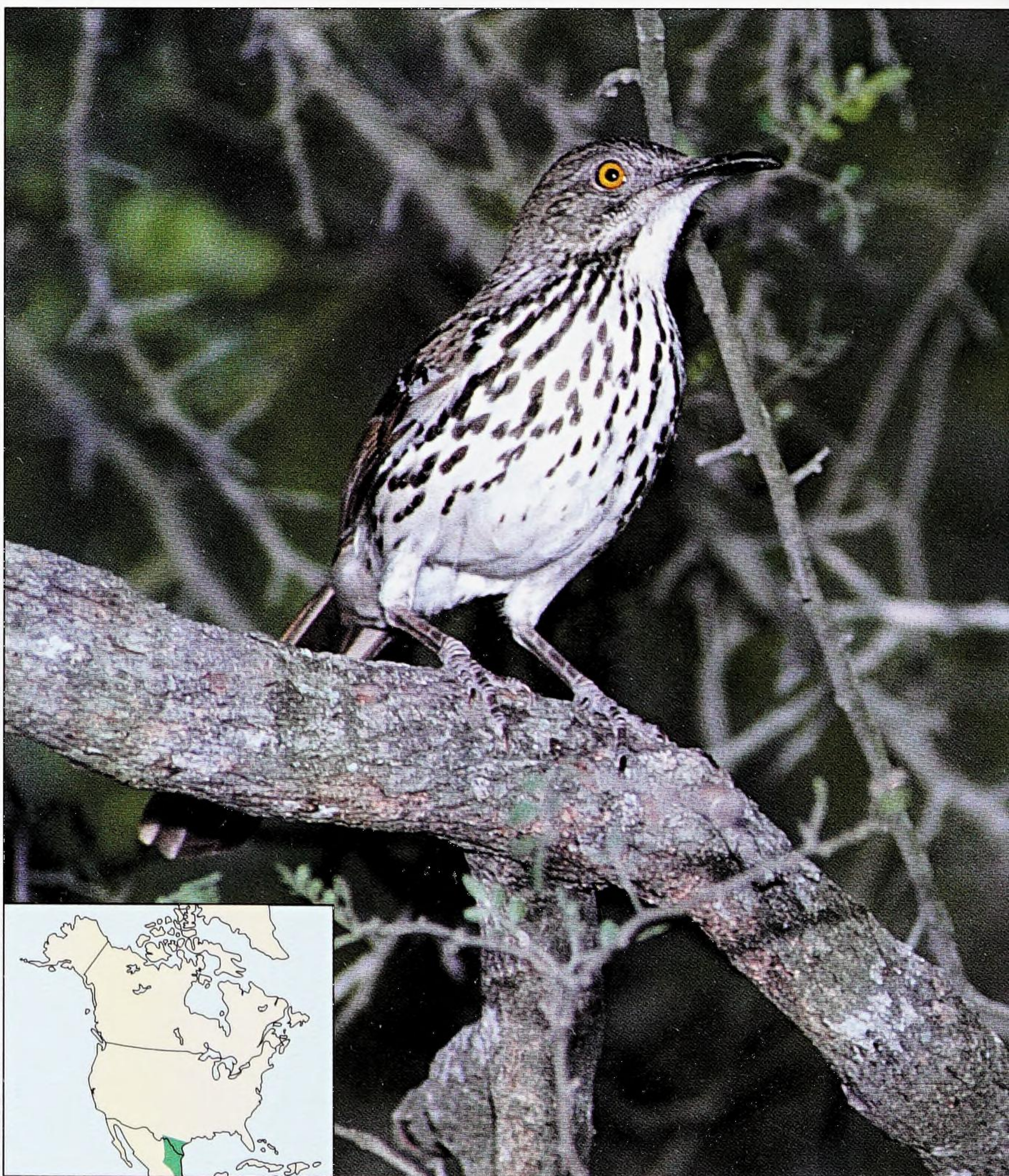
Numerous in some areas, uncommon in others, Bendire's Thrasher is found in North America only in the desert scrub of the southwest. In winter it moves slightly south, but in summer it spreads right up to southern Utah and Colorado. It nests just above the ground in a desert bush, small tree or cactus, building a cup of sticks, lined with soft material, to hold its 3 or 4 pale greenish eggs, spotted with buff. The adult is a medium-size bird with a longish, slightly down-curved bill and a long tail. It is light gray-brown above, paler beneath, with arrow-shaped spots on the breast, yellow eyes and white corners to the tail. Unlike other thrashers, which rarely fly, Bendire's flies from bush to bush. However, it still forages on the ground for caterpillars, beetles and insects.



LONG-BILLED THRASHER

Scientific name:	<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>
Length:	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Habitat:	Dense thickets, woodland edges
Identification:	Large, long-billed songbird with long wings. Gray-brown above, whitish beneath with thin, dark streaks, two white wing bars, white outer corners to tail, orange eyes
Similar species:	Brown Thrasher has shorter bill, yellow eyes, is redder above

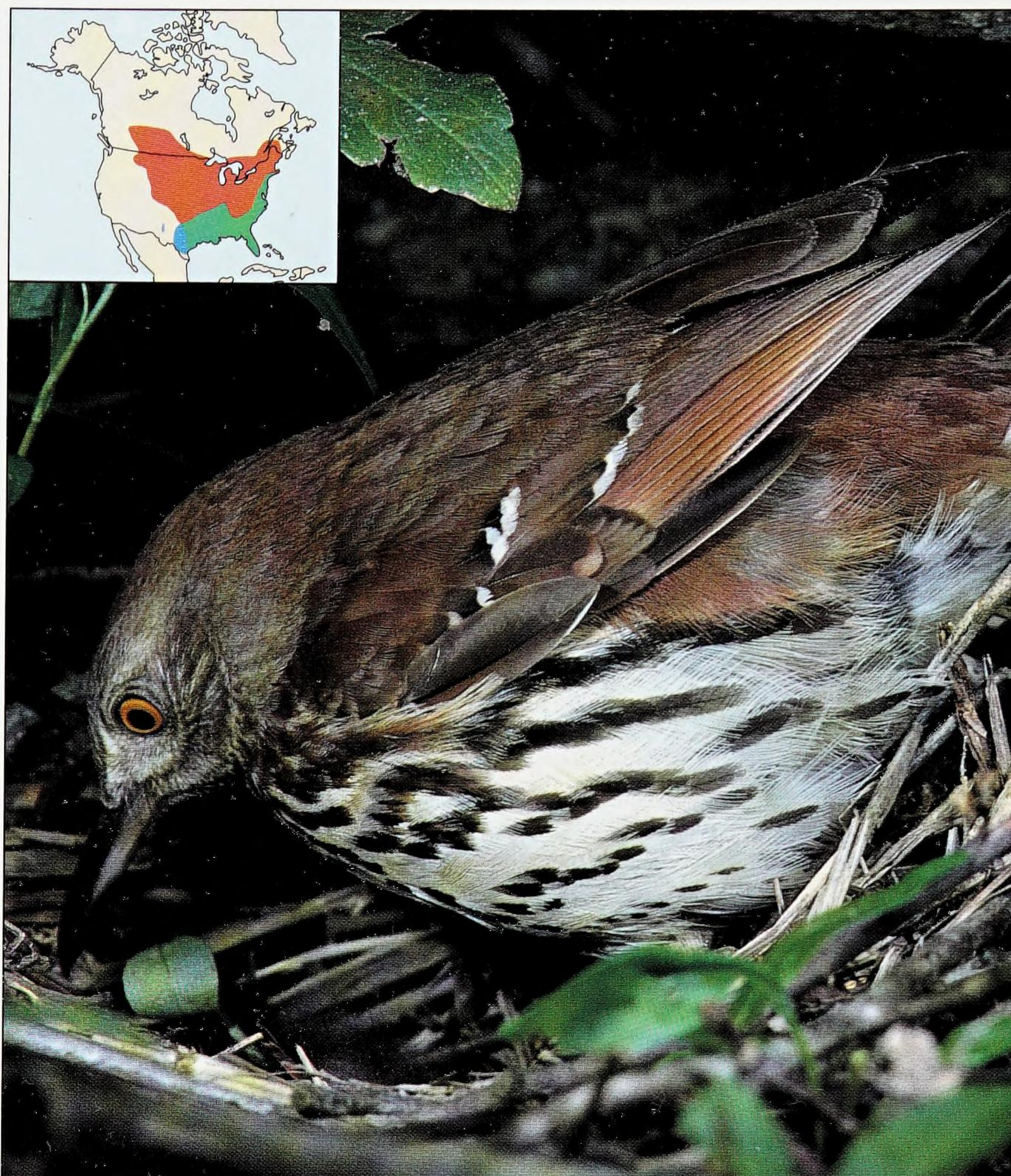
The Long-billed Thrasher is a Mexican bird that is only found in North America in southern Texas, where it lives in dense thickets. It is most likely to be seen in the breeding season, when it sings from a high, open perch. It nests just above the ground in a dense thicket or cactus, building a tight cup of thorny twigs, lined with soft material, to hold its 2-5 bluish-green, red-brown-speckled eggs. The adult is a rather large bird with a long, down-curved bill and long wings. It is gray-brown above, whitish beneath with thin, dark streaks, and has two white wing bars, white outer corners to the tail, and orange eyes. The Long-billed Thrasher forages on the ground, turning over leaves and other debris with its bill to find insects, spiders and berries.



BROWN THRASHER

- Scientific name:** *Toxostoma rufum*
Length: 11½ inches
Habitat: Hedgerows, brush, woodland, thickets
Identification: Large, short-billed songbird with long, pointed wings. Bright red-brown above, buffy beneath with thin, dark streaks, two white wing bars, white outer corners to tail, yellow eyes
Similar species: Long-billed Thrasher has longer bill, orange eyes, is grayer above. Wood Thrush has spotted rather than striped breast, dark eyes, shorter tail

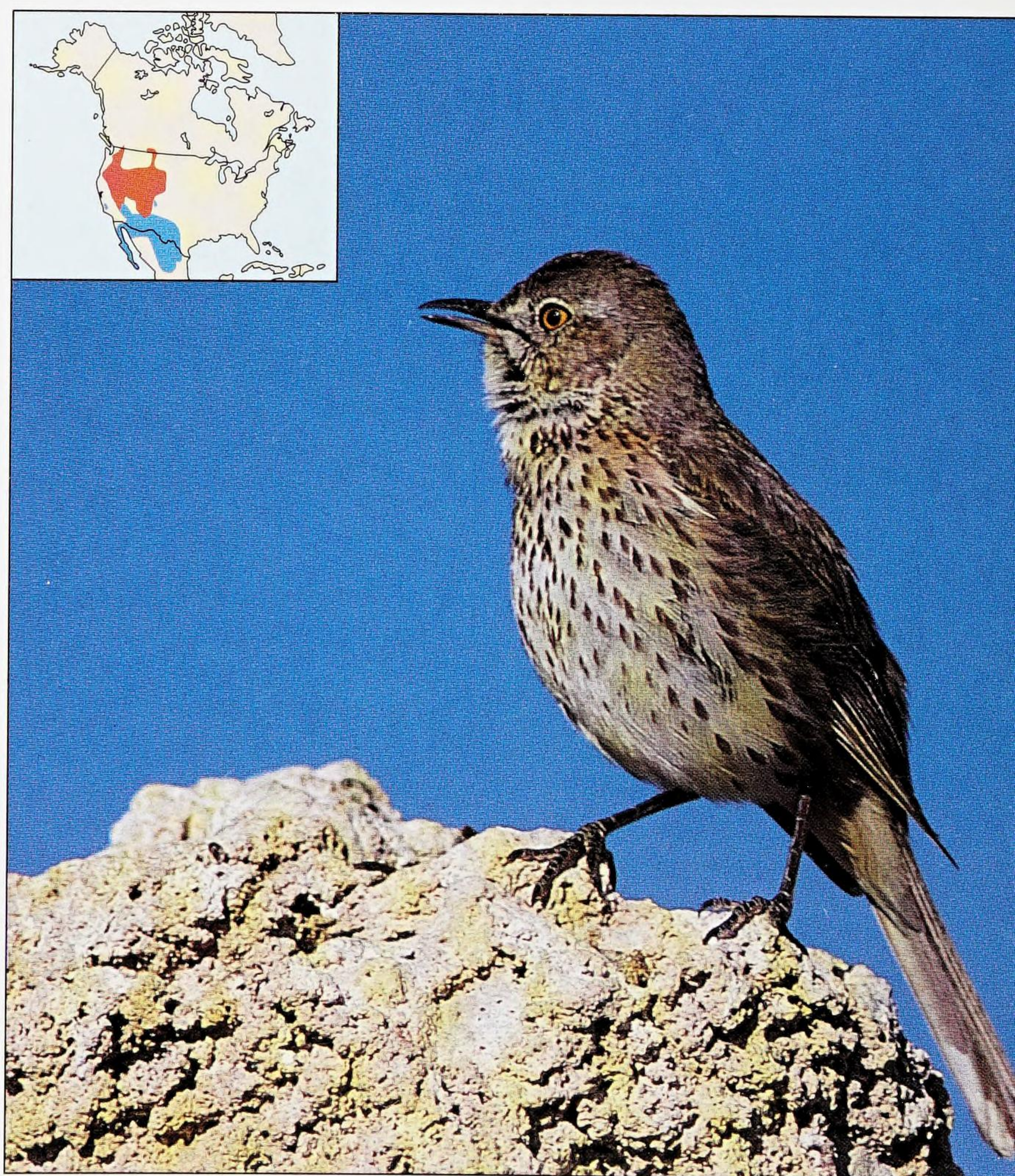
Spreading across most of the east in summer, the Brown Thrasher lives in hedgerows, brush and thickets - often near humans. Although it is declining it is still quite common within its range, and some birds are seen all year round in the southeast - it is often noticed singing from treetops in the breeding season. It nests on the ground or in a dense brush pile or thicket, building a well-hidden, bulky cup of twigs, leaves and grass to hold its 2-4 bluish-white, brown-speckled eggs. These are incubated by both birds for up to 2 weeks, and the young are ready to leave the nest some 2 weeks later. The adult is a large bird with a short bill and long, pointed wings. It is bright red-brown above, buffy beneath with thin, dark streaks, and has two white wing bars, white outer corners to the tail, and yellow eyes. The Brown Thrasher forages on the ground, scattering leaves by moving its bill from side to side as it searches for insects, spiders and berries.



SAGE THRASHER

- Scientific name:** *Oreoscoptes montanus*
Length: 8½ inches
Habitat: Sagebrush flats, juniper woods
Identification: Small, short-billed songbird with long wings. Gray-brown above, whitish beneath with heavy brown streaking, two white wing bars, white outer feathers to tail, yellow eyes
Similar species: Faded summer plumage resembles Bendire's Thrasher, which is less streaked beneath

Found on sagebrush flats in the west in summer, the Sage Thrasher spends the winter in juniper woods in the south. It nests on the ground or well-hidden in dense brush, building a bulky cup of twigs, stems and sage leaves to hold its 4 or 5 glossy blue, boldly brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated by both birds, but details are unknown. The adult is a small bird with a short bill and long wings. It is gray-brown above, whitish beneath with heavy brown streaking, and has two white wing bars, white outer feathers to the tail, and yellow eyes. The Sage Thrasher sometimes mimics other birds, but also warbles its own sweet song. It usually flies low above the ground, but will also run from bush to bush instead. It sometimes eats fruit in gardens, but also takes spiders and forages on the ground for the insects that damage crops.





CALIFORNIA THRASHER *(above)*

- Scientific name:** *Toxostoma redivivum*
Length: 12 inches
Habitat: Chaparral, brushy foothills
Identification: Large, long-tailed songbird with long, black, deeply down-curved bill. Dark brown above, pale throat, light gray-brown breast, buffy-cinnamon belly and undertail coverts, dark brown eyes, pale eyebrow, dark cheek, buffy corners to tail
Similar species: Crissal Thrasher is lighter overall

The California Thrasher is only found in chaparral and brushy foothills along the west coast, but is fairly common within its limited range. It can be difficult to spot as it tends to stay under cover in dense thickets, but it comes out in the open to sing - often for long periods. It nests in a low shrub or a tree, building a bowl of sticks and roots, lined with softer material, to hold its 2-4 pale blue-green, speckled eggs. These are incubated by both birds for 2 weeks, with the young leaving the nest a further 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a large bird with a long tail and a long, black, deeply down-curved bill. It is dark brown above, with a pale throat, light gray-brown breast, buffy-cinnamon belly and undertail coverts, buffy corners to the tail and has dark brown eyes with a pale eyebrow and a dark cheek. The California Thrasher is an excellent mimic. It forages on the ground under bushes, using its strong bill to turn the soil and toss aside debris as it searches for insects, spiders, seeds and berries. If spotted, it scurries under cover rather than flying away.

CRISSAL THRASHER

- Scientific name:** *Toxostoma crissale*
Length: 11½ inches
Habitat: Dense mesquite, streamside willows, desert washes
Identification: Large, long-tailed songbird with long, black, deeply down-curved bill. Brown above, light gray-brown underneath, chestnut-brown undertail coverts, yellow-brown eyes, pale throat, dark mustache mark, buffy corners to tail
Similar species: California Thrasher is darker overall

Although the Crissal Thrasher strongly resembles the California, their ranges do not overlap. The Crissal is found in southeast California, spreading further east through Utah to west Texas and south down into Mexico. It is fairly common but secretive and elusive, staying hidden in mesquite thickets and other dense growth and rarely coming into the open. It nests in dense mesquite or other thick shrubs, building a large bowl of twigs, lined with softer material, to hold its 2-4 pale blue-green eggs. These are incubated by both birds for about 2 weeks, with the young leaving the nest 11-13 days after hatching. The adult is a large bird with a long tail and a long, black, deeply down-curved bill. It is brown above and light gray-brown beneath, with a pale throat, chestnut-brown undertail coverts, buffy corners to the tail, yellow-brown eyes and a dark mustache mark. The Crissal Thrasher very rarely flies but forages on the ground under cover, using its strong bill to turn the soil and toss aside leaves as it searches for insects, spiders and berries.

CURVE-BILLED THRASHER

Scientific name: *Toxostoma curvirostre*

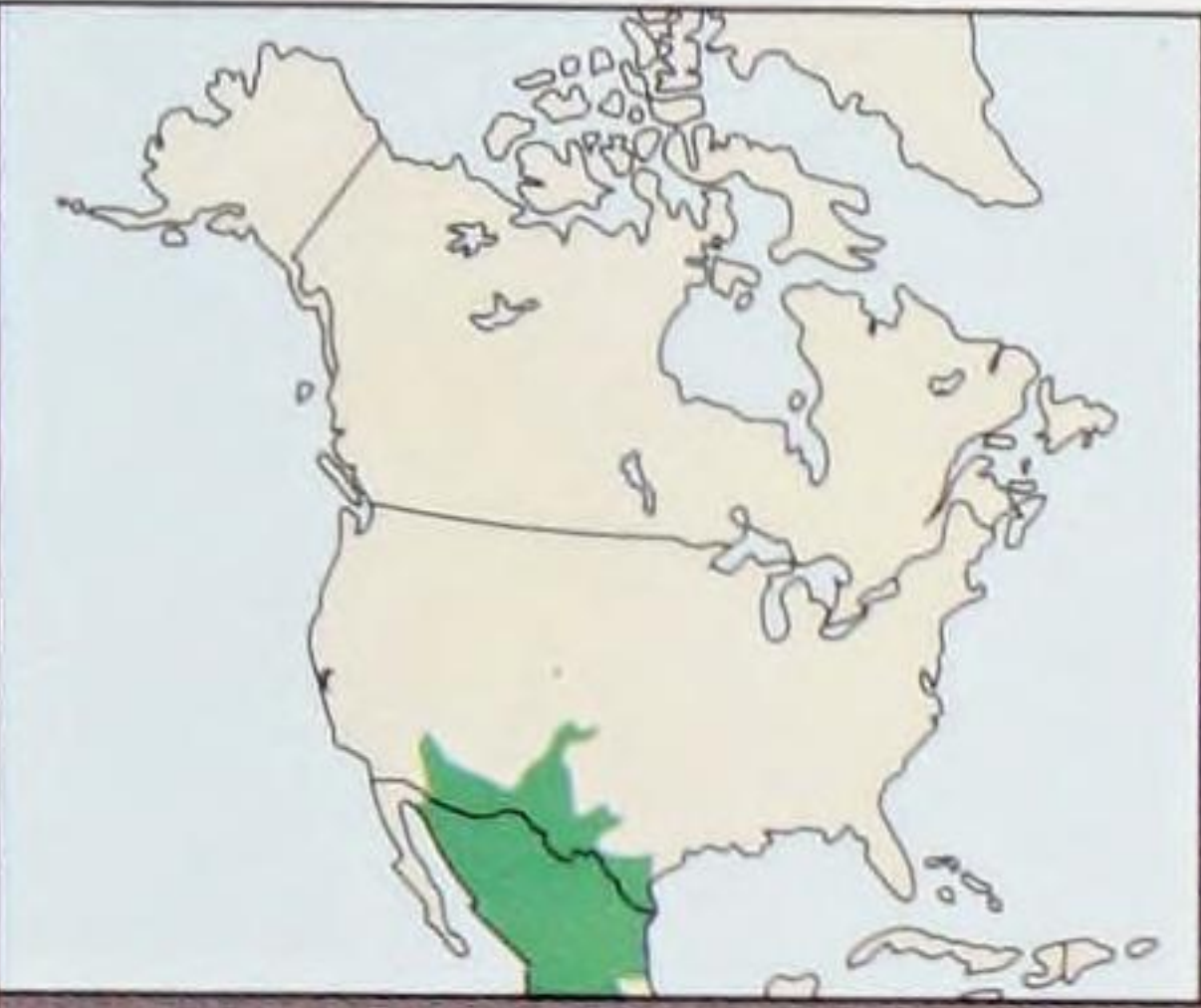
Length: 11 inches

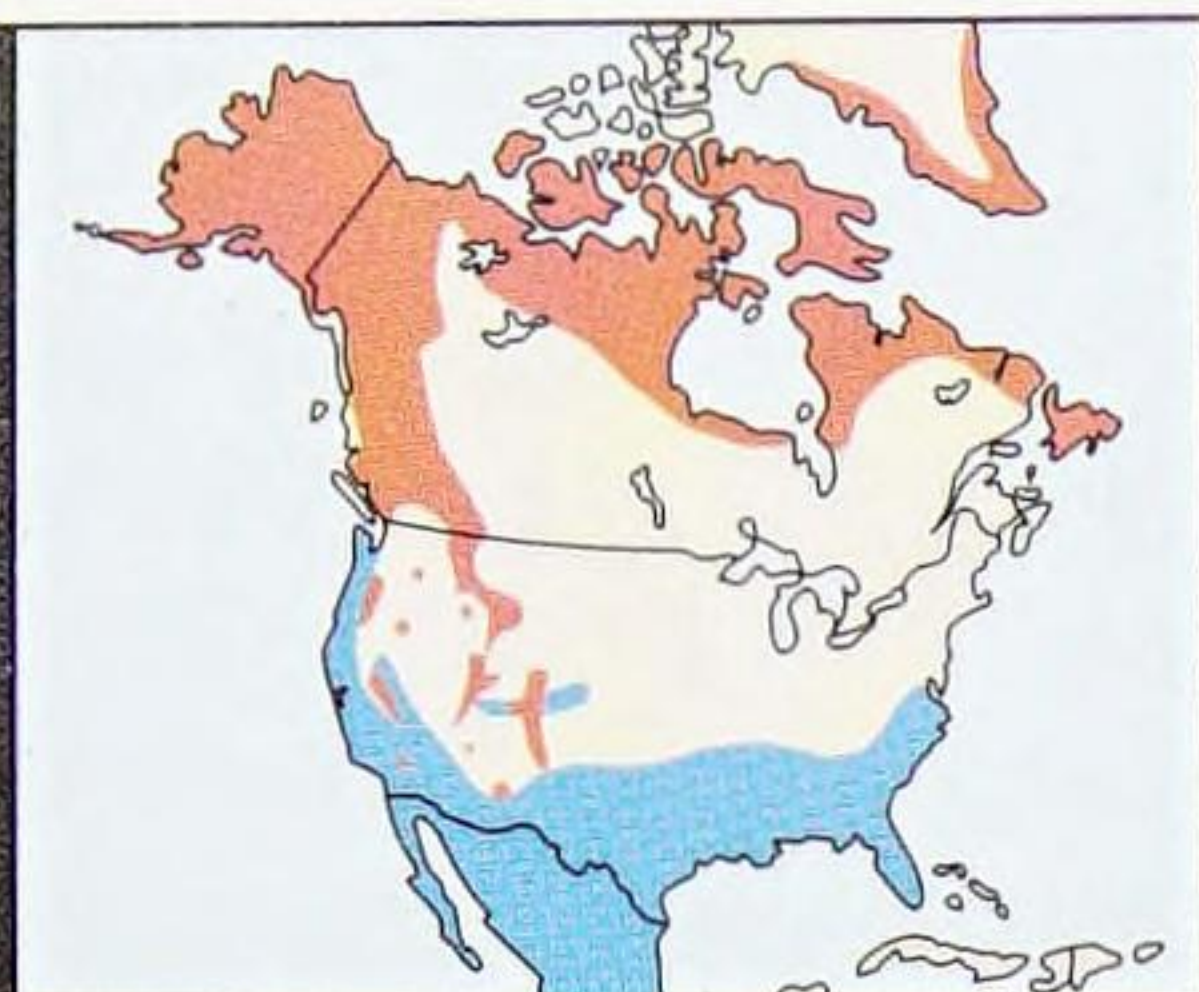
Habitat: Canyons, arid brush, desert

Identification: Large, plain, long-tailed songbird with long, black, down-curved bill. Light gray-brown overall, lighter beneath, round spots on breast, orange-yellow eyes, white corners to tail, narrow white wing bars

Similar species: Bendire's Thrasher has shorter, paler, less down-curved bill, yellow eyes. Juvenile Curve-billed has shorter bill and can look almost identical to Bendire's

Common in the cactus deserts of the south and down into Mexico, the Curve-billed Thrasher can often be seen out in the open and is a permanent resident within its range. It nests up to 12 feet above the ground in a cholla cactus - or sometimes a tree - building a woven cup of thorny twigs, lined with soft material, to hold its 2-4 pale blue-green, spotted eggs. The adult is a large, rather plain bird with a long tail and a long, black, down-curved bill. It is light gray-brown above, paler beneath, with round spots on the breast, orange-yellow eyes, white corners to the tail and two narrow white wing bars. The juvenile has a shorter, straighter bill and more obvious spots on the upper breast. The Curve-billed Thrasher forages on the ground, tossing aside debris as it searches for insects, seeds and berries.





AMERICAN PIPIT

Scientific name: *Anthus rubescens*

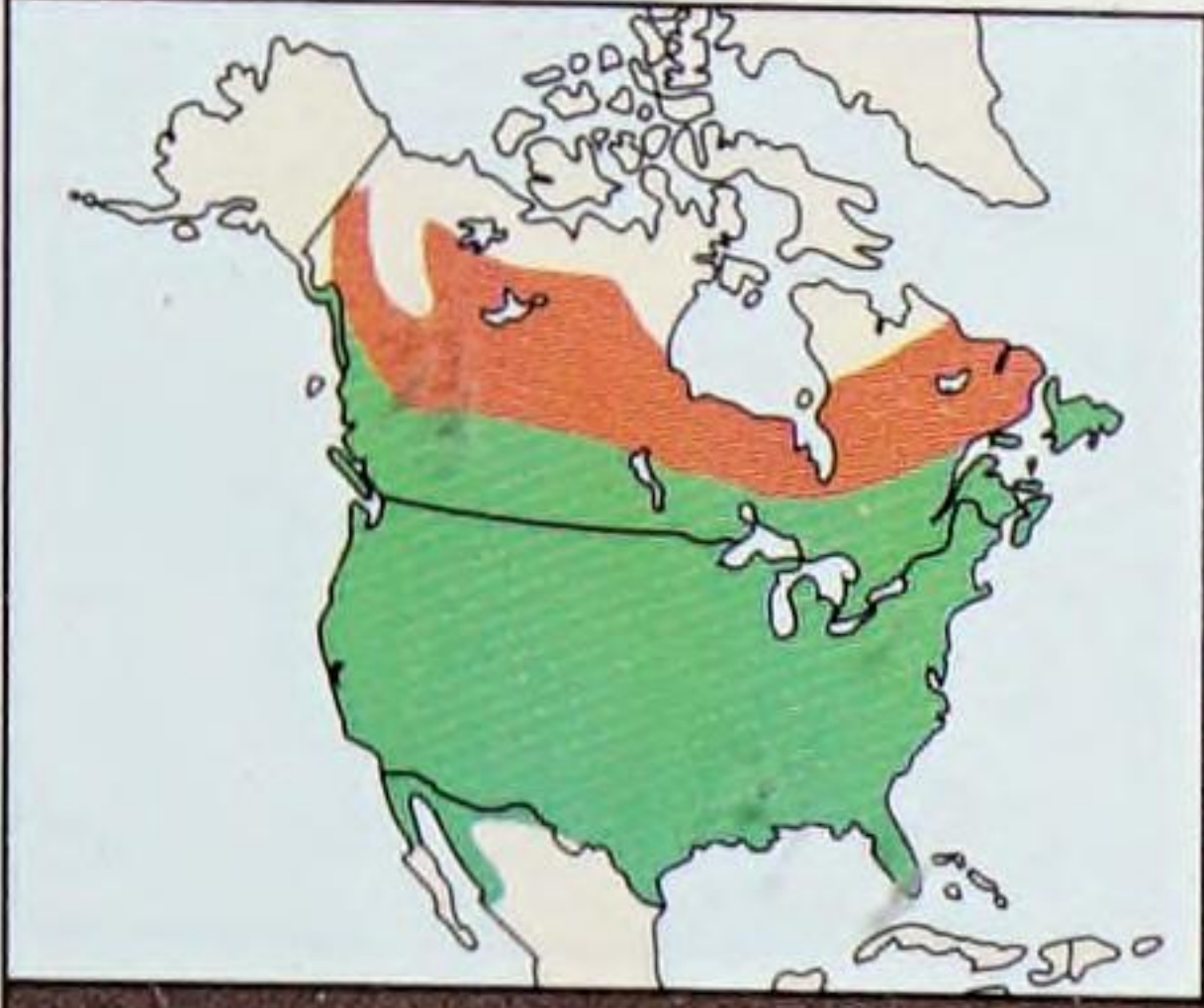
Length: 6½ inches

Habitat: Tundra, mountains, open fields, mudflats

Identification: Slender, long-tailed, long-legged songbird. Breeding plumage gray-brown above, buffy with faint streaking below, browner in winter, with heavier streaking. Dark bill and legs, white outer tail feathers

Similar species: Slender bill, long legs and bobbing tail distinguish it from similar-colored birds

The American Pipit is common and widespread, spending the summer on tundra in the north and the winter on open fields and beaches in the south. It nests on the ground, lining a cavity with a soft cup of grass and hair to hold its 3-7 whitish, brown-blotched eggs. These are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female, and the young are ready to leave the nest around 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a slender bird with long legs and a relatively long tail, which it wags up and down. In the breeding season it is gray-brown above and buffy with faint streaking below, in winter it is browner with heavier streaking. In all plumages it has a dark bill, dark legs sometimes tinged pink, and white outer tail feathers. The American Pipit lives in flocks for most of the year and walks, rather than hopping. It eats insects, spiders and small snails.



EUROPEAN STARLING

Scientific name:	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Length:	8½ inches
Habitat:	Urban areas, farmland, orchards
Identification:	Chunky, short-tailed bird with straight, pointed bill. Breeding plumage black with iridescent green-purple gloss, yellow bill, duller and speckled white in winter with darker bill
Similar species:	Size, coloring and habits distinctive

Perhaps the most abundant bird in North America, the European Starling is not a native bird but was introduced from

the Old World in 1890. It nests in holes in trees or buildings, often displacing other birds, lining the cavity with a soft cup of grass and other soft material to hold its 5 or 6 pale blue eggs. These are incubated by both birds for about 11-14 days, with the young leaving the nest 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a chunky bird with a short, square tail and a thin, straight, pointed bill. In the breeding season it is black with an iridescent green-purple gloss and has a yellow bill, in winter it is duller and speckled white, with a darker bill. The juvenile is gray-brown, with paler underparts. The European Starling competes with native birds, steals grain and fruit and fouls city streets. However, it also eats many of the insect pests that would otherwise damage crops.



CEDAR WAXWING

Scientific name:	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>
Length:	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Trees with wild berries
Identification:	Round-bodied, short-tailed songbird with crested head. Brown-gray above, yellow beneath, white undertail coverts, yellow and white wing markings, red spot on wing, yellow tip to tail, black face mask edged white, black chin
Similar species:	Bohemian Waxwing is grayer, has chestnut under tail, gray belly

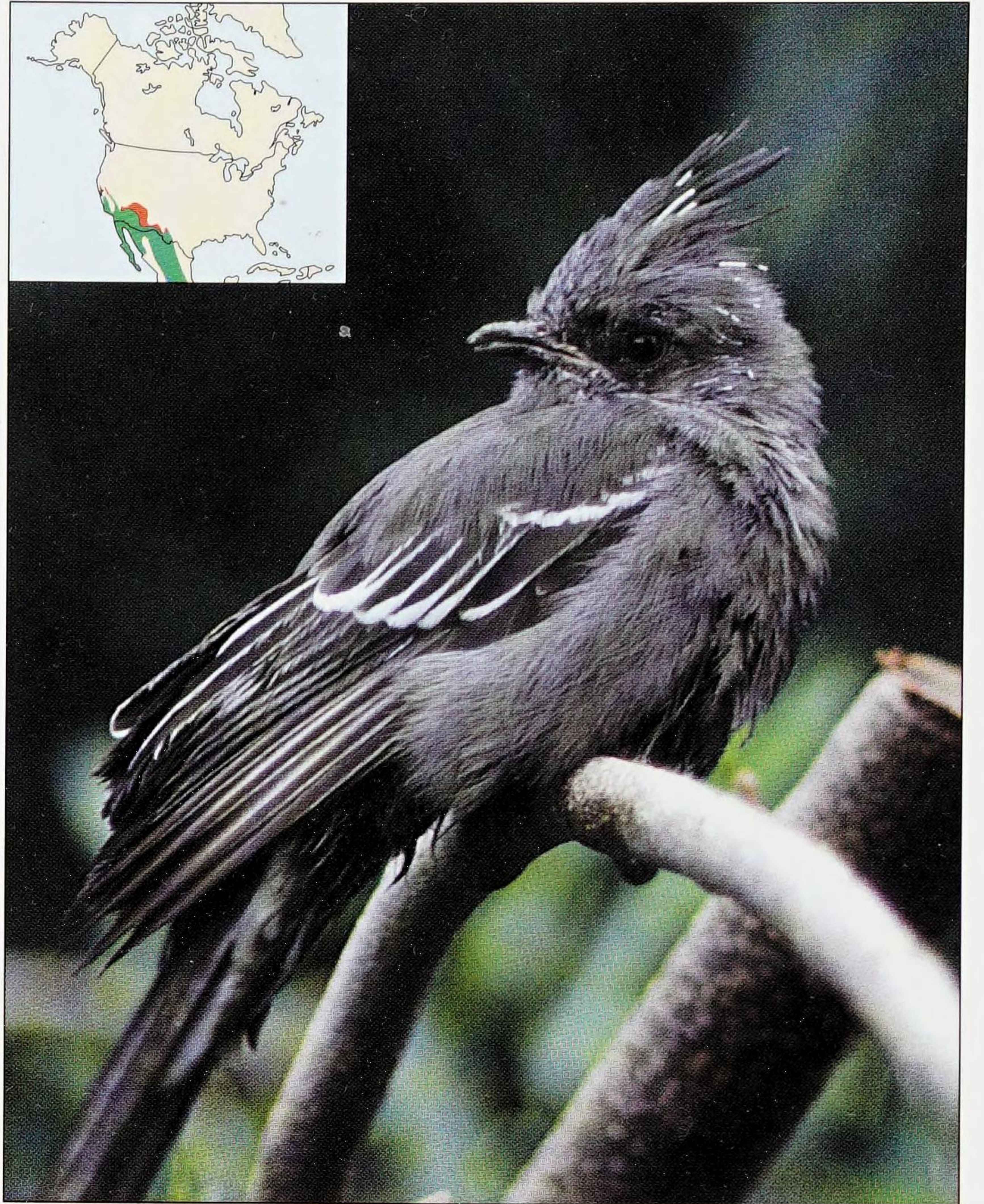
Like the Bohemian, the Cedar Waxwing is a very sociable bird and is almost always seen in quite large flocks, except when the birds

pair up to breed. It is found across most of North America during various times of the year, but flocks will move around a great deal in winter in search of berries. In its breeding area it builds a loose nest of twigs, grass and lichens, lined with moss and woven onto a horizontal branch up to 50 feet above the ground. It lays 3-6 blue-gray eggs, which are incubated for 12-14 days; the young birds are ready to start fending for themselves about 17-19 days later. The adult is a rather round-bodied bird, with a short tail and a crested head. Its plumage is brown-gray above and yellow beneath, with a black face mask edged with white, a black chin, white undertail coverts, yellow and white wing markings with a red spot on each wing, and a yellow tip to the tail. Juvenile birds are similar in general coloring but are streaky beneath. The Cedar Waxwing is particularly fond of berries, but it will also eat flying insects and flower petals.

PHAINOPEPLA

Scientific name:	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>
Length:	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Desert, mesquite brushland
Identification:	Slender, long-tailed songbird with rounded wings and ragged crest. Male glossy black, white wing patch only seen in flight. Female gray, with pale edges to wing feathers, pale wing patch. Both birds have red eyes
Similar species:	Shape and coloring distinctive

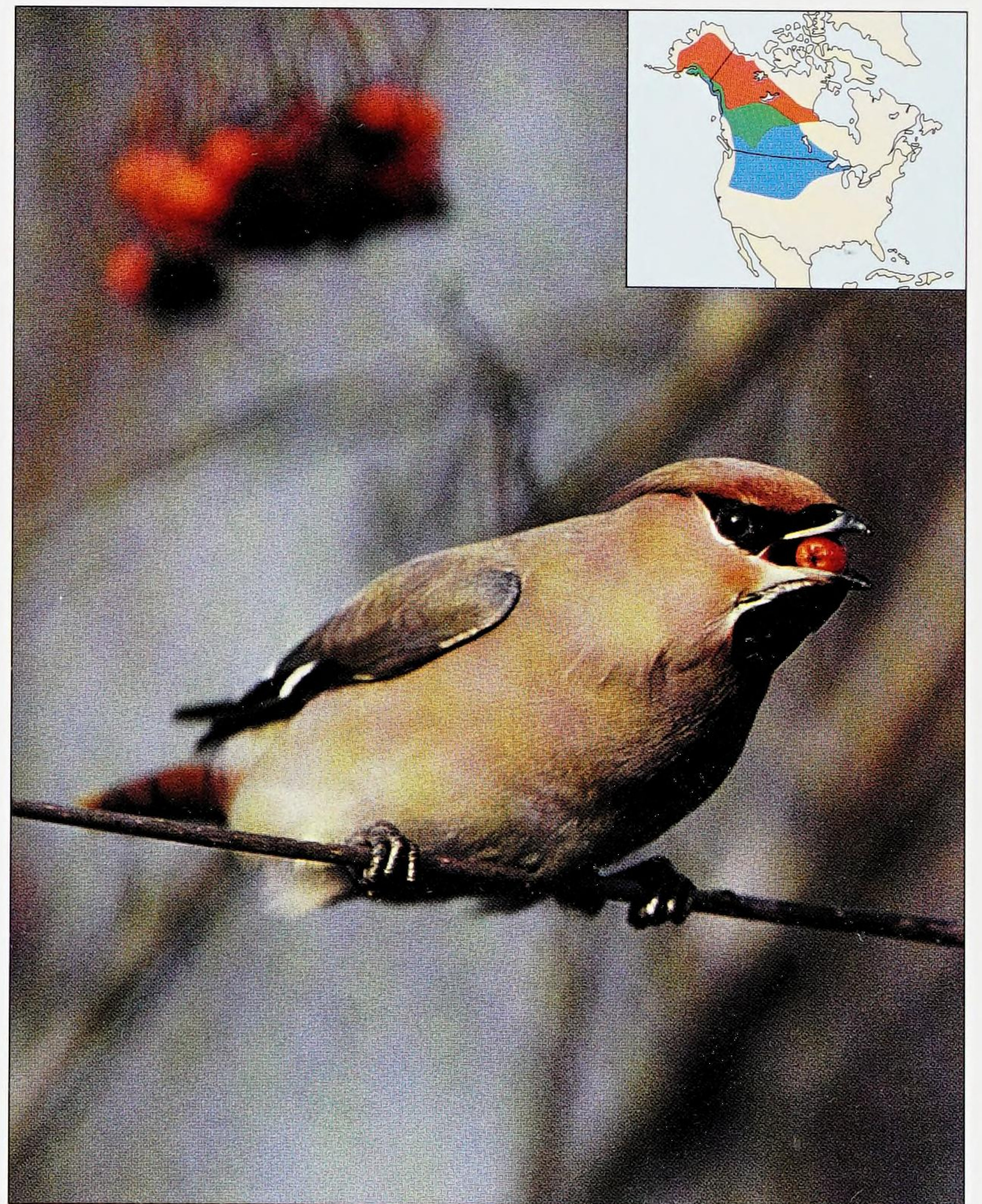
Only found in North America in the southwest, the Phainopepla is a tropical bird that prefers a hot climate and open country so it tends to inhabit desert scrub areas. It builds a shallow nest of plant fibers up to 50 feet above the ground in a tree, in which it lays 2-4 whitish-green eggs, speckled with brown and black. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by both adults and the young birds are ready to start fending for themselves about 17-19 days later. The adult is a slender bird, with a long tail, rounded wings and a ragged crest. The male is glossy black, but has a white wing patch that is only seen in flight. The female is gray, with pale edges to the wing feathers and a pale wing patch. Both birds have red eyes. Juvenile birds are similar to the female, but have browner eyes. The Phainopepla lives mostly on mistletoe berries, so can be found wherever the desert mistletoe grows. Since they are seasonal, it also eats flying insects.



BOHEMIAN WAXWING

Scientific name:	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>
Length:	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open coniferous and mixed woods, spruce forest, bogs
Identification:	Round-bodied, short-tailed songbird with crested head. Cinnamon-gray above, gray beneath, chestnut undertail coverts, yellow and white wing markings, red spot on wing, yellow tip to tail, black face mask edged white, black chin
Similar species:	Cedar Waxwing is browner, lacks chestnut under tail, yellow belly

A bird of the far northwest, the Bohemian Waxwing is very sociable and is almost always seen in flocks. Although it usually spends the summer in boreal forests and the edge of the taiga and winters in the prairie provinces, it is sometimes seen in large numbers much further afield - possibly due to food shortages in its normal range. In its breeding area it builds a twiggy nest, lined with moss, high in a conifer to hold its 4-6 bluish eggs. These are incubated for 12-14 days and the young birds are ready to start fending for themselves about 2 weeks later. The adult is a rather round-bodied bird, with a short tail and a crested head. Its plumage is cinnamon-gray above and plain gray beneath, with a black face mask edged with white, a black chin, chestnut undertail coverts, yellow and white wing markings with a red spot on each wing, and a yellow tip to the tail. Juvenile birds are similar in general coloring but are streaky beneath. The Bohemian Waxwing mainly eats insects and berries.



GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

Scientific name: *Vermivora chrysoptera*

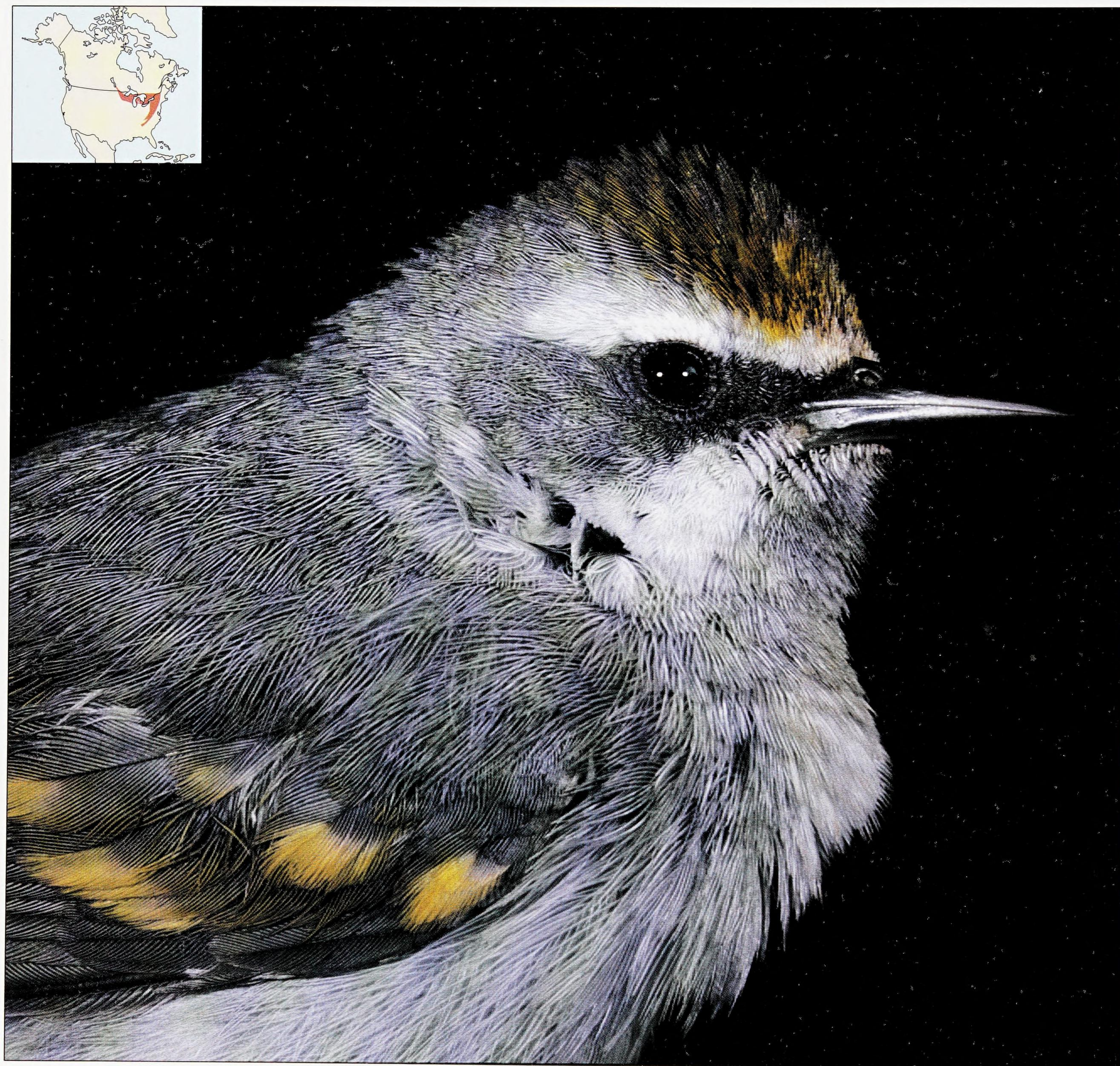
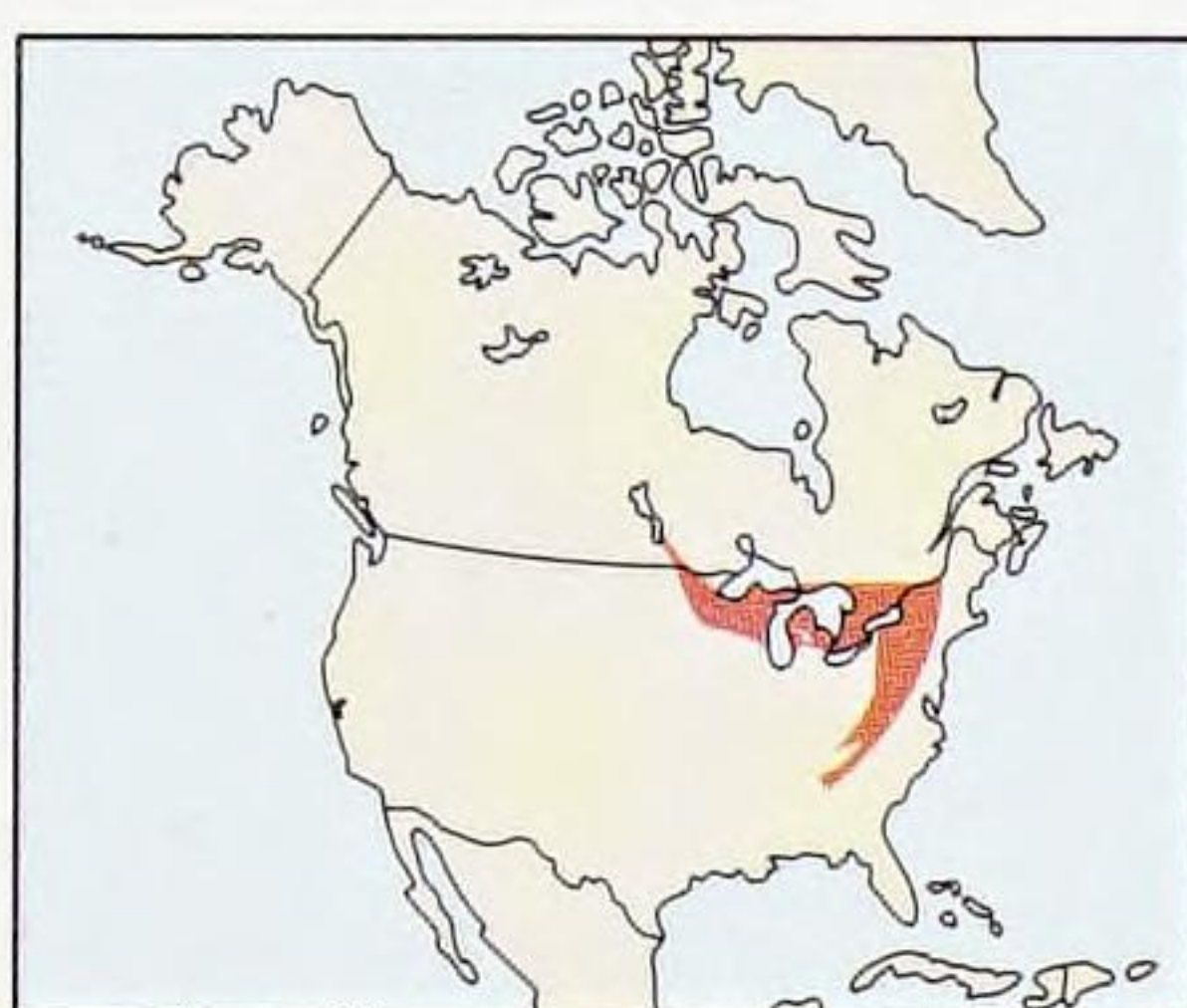
Length: 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches

Habitat: Woodland edges, overgrown pasture, swamps, second-growth woods

Identification: Small, short-tailed woodland bird with slender bill. Male blue-gray above, bright yellow crown, black throat, whitish-gray underparts, black ear patch edged white, blue-gray wings, yellow wing patch. Female duller

Similar species: Interbreeds with Blue-winged Warbler, so many intermediate color variations

Much less common than the Blue-winged, the Golden-winged Warbler is found in the northeast in summer, but migrates across much of the east to spend the winter in Central America. Its numbers are declining as the Blue-winged spreads into its area and the two species interbreed. It nests on the ground, building a cup of bark, grass and plant fibers, hidden at the base of a shrub or among weeds, in which it lays 4-7 creamy-white eggs, speckled with brown-gray. These are incubated by the female for 9-12 days - although the male helps to feed the nestlings - and the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 10 days after hatching. The adult is a small, short-tailed bird with a slender bill. The male is blue-gray above, with a bright yellow crown, a black throat, whitish-gray underparts, a black ear patch edged white, and blue-gray wings with a yellow wing patch. The female is similar, but duller. The Golden-winged Warbler forages high in foliage, hunting for insects, spiders and caterpillars.



BLUE-WINGED WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodland edges, thickets, second-growth woods
Identification:	Small, short-tailed woodland bird with slender bill. Male has bright yellow crown and underparts, black eyeline, yellowish-white undertail coverts, blue-gray wings, two white wing bars. Female duller
Similar species:	Interbreeds with Golden-winged Warbler, so many intermediate color variations

The Blue-winged Warbler is locally common in North America in summer and its range is spreading to the north and west. Since it prefers more open woodland and has such bright coloring, it may be easier to spot than many other warblers. It nests on the ground, building a cup of bark, grass and animal hair, hidden at the base of a shrub or among weeds. It lays 3-7 white eggs, speckled with brown-gray, which are incubated by the female for 9-12 days; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 9-11 days after hatching. The adult is a small, short-tailed bird with a slender bill. The male has a bright yellow crown and underparts, a black eyeline, yellowish-white undertail coverts, and blue-gray wings with two white wing bars. The female is similar, but duller. The Blue-winged Warbler often forages on the ground, but also high in foliage. It eats insects and spiders.



WORM-EATING WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Dense undergrowth in woodland
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed woodland bird with long, spike-like bill. Brownish-olive above, buffy beneath, bold black stripes on buffy head
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

A fairly common bird, the Worm-eating Warbler is not easy to spot as it stays in dense undergrowth in woodland - and when it stays still, its coloring provides excellent camouflage. It nests on the ground, building a cup of dead leaves and other plant matter, hidden at the base of a shrub or tree. It lays 3-5 white eggs, speckled with brown, which are incubated by the female for just under 2 weeks; the young birds are ready to start fending for themselves around 9-11 days after they have hatched. The adult is a stocky, short-tailed bird with a long, spike-like bill. Its plumage is brownish-olive above and buffy beneath, with bold black stripes on a buffy head. Despite its name, the Worm-eating Warbler does not live on earthworms - although it does eat caterpillars as well as insects and spiders.



TENNESSEE WARBLER

Scientific name:

Vermivora peregrina

Length:

4¾ inches

Habitat:

Coniferous and mixed woodland, clearings, bogs

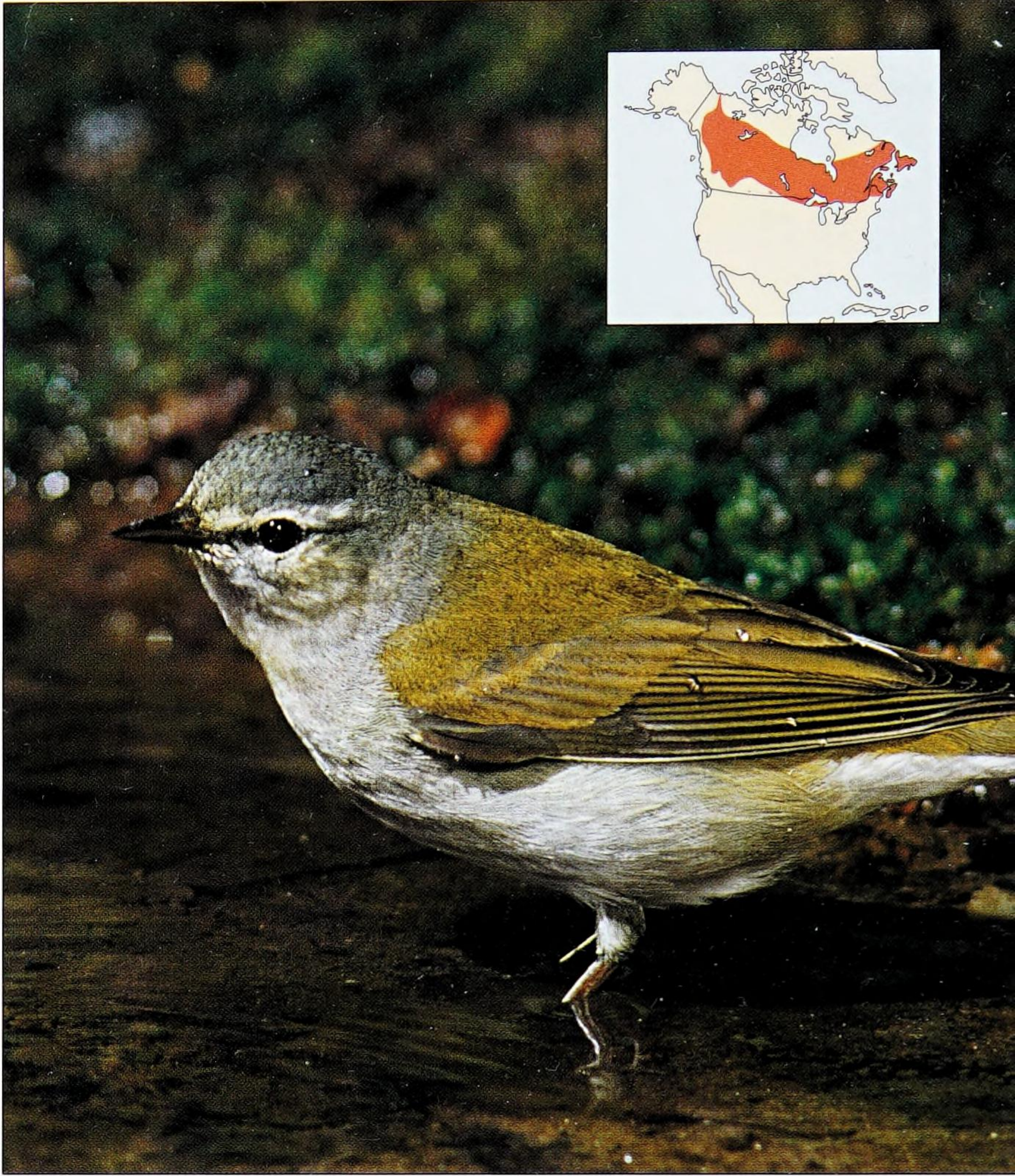
Identification:

Small, short-tailed woodland bird with sharp bill and long wings. Breeding male has gray crown and nape, olive-green above, whitish underparts, black eyeline, white eyebrow. Female has less evident crown, yellow breast and eyebrow. Winter adults plain olive-green above, yellow below, white undertail coverts

Similar species:

Orange-crowned Warbler similar to fall birds but lacks white undertail coverts. Warbling and Red-eyed vireos have thicker bill, grayer back

Despite its name, the Tennessee Warbler is found in the bogs and clearings of northern boreal forests in summer, only visiting Tennessee during migration as it heads to Central America and the Caribbean for the winter. It nests on or near the ground, building a solid cup of grass and plant fibers, lined with animal hair and sheltered under a clump of tall grass or a low bush. It lays 4-7 white eggs, lightly spotted with red-brown, which are incubated for around 11-14 days. The adult is a small, plump, short-tailed bird with a sharp bill and long wings. The breeding male has a gray crown and nape and is olive-green above with whitish underparts, a black eyeline and a white eyebrow. The female has a less evident crown, and a yellow breast and eyebrow. Winter adults and juveniles are plain olive-green above and yellow below, with white undertail coverts. The Tennessee Warbler forages fairly high in trees, snatching flying insects and eating spiders, berries and seeds.



ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER

Scientific name:

Vermivora celata

Length:

5 inches

Habitat:

Open brushy woodland, forest edges, leafy thickets

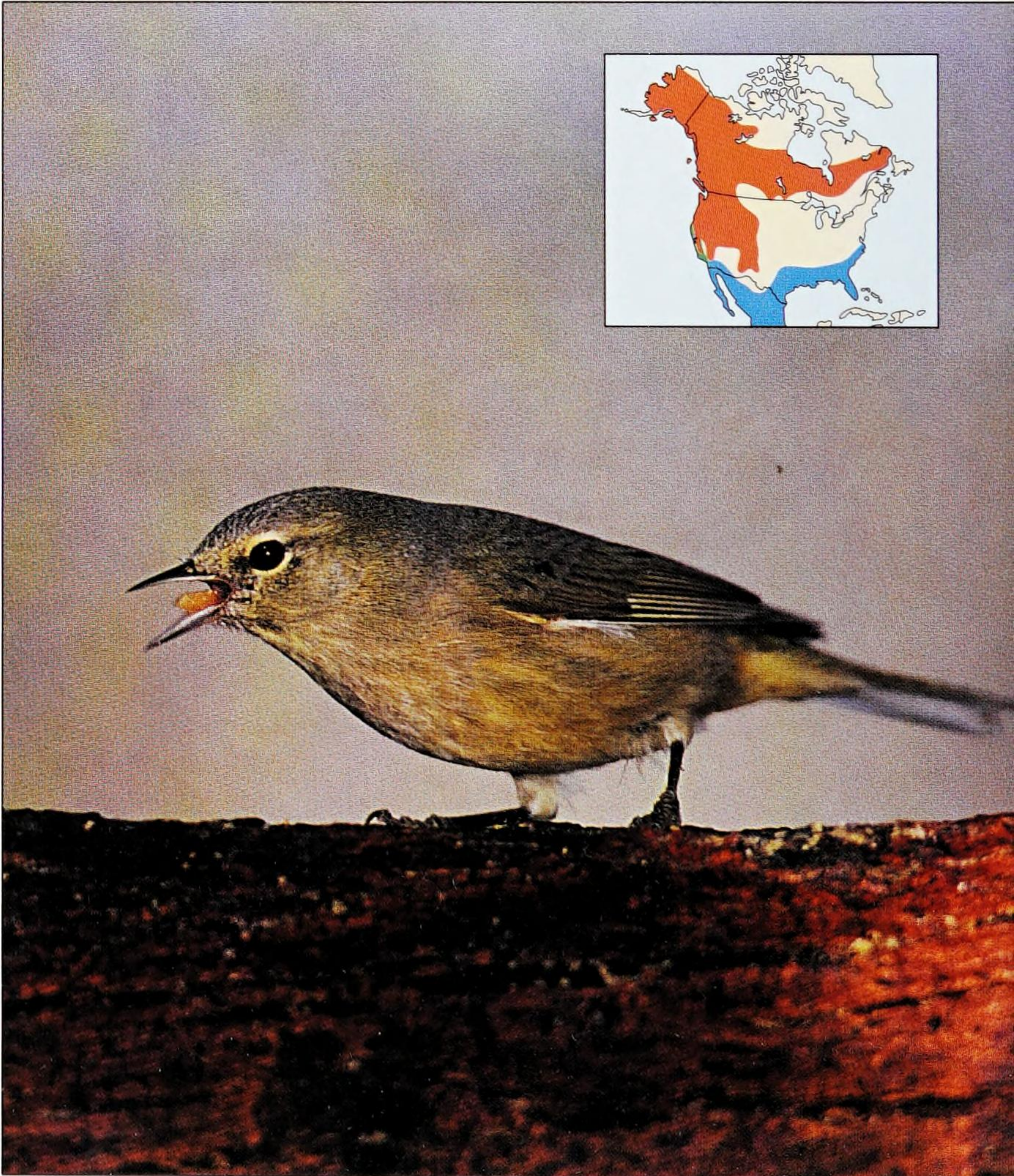
Identification:

Small woodland bird with sharply pointed, slightly down-curved bill. Olive-green above, olive-yellow below with very faint streaking on breast, orange crown usually not visible except in display

Similar species:

Tennessee Warbler in fall plumage has white undertail coverts

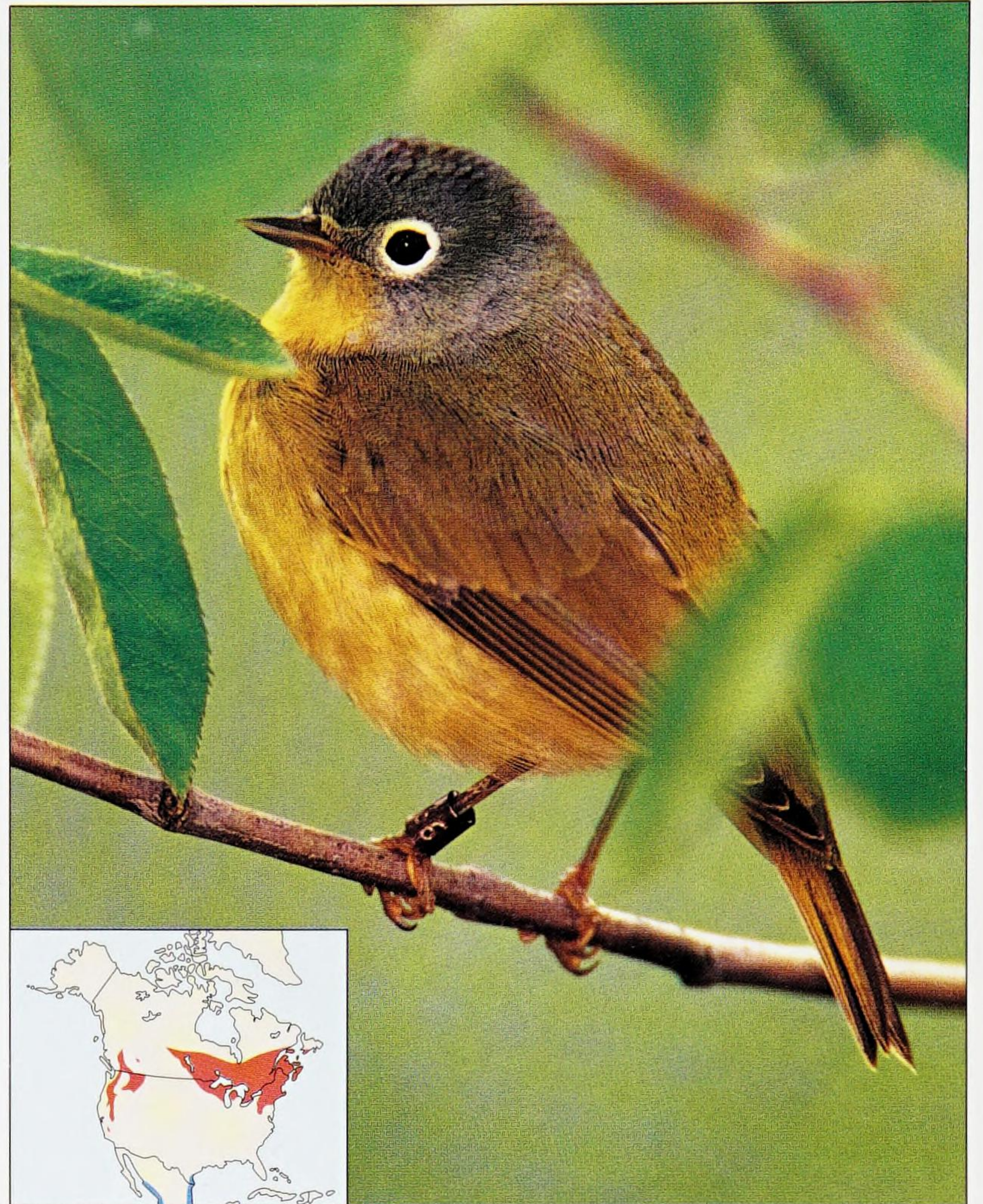
The rather plain Orange-crowned Warbler is one of the most common warblers in western North America, although it is rarer in the east. It nests on or near the ground, building a large bowl of grass and plant fibers, lined with feathers or animal fur and sheltered under a low bush or in a shrub. It lays 4-6 white eggs with red or lavender spotting, often more thickly concentrated at the rounded end. The adult is a small bird with a fairly long tail and a sharply pointed, slightly down-curved bill. Its plumage is olive-green above and olive-yellow below, with very faint streaking on the breast. The orange crown is usually not visible, except in courtship display or when the bird is alarmed. The Orange-crowned Warbler forages both fairly low in thick growth and high in trees, snatching flying insects and eating berries.



NASHVILLE WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Second-growth woods, spruce bogs
Identification:	Small, stubby, short-tailed woodland bird with sharp bill. Male has blue-gray head, white eye ring, olive-green upperparts, bright yellow chin and throat, yellow beneath with whitish belly. Chestnut crown usually not visible except in display. Female duller
Similar species:	Size, coloring and active habits distinctive

Although it is common in the northeast and the west in summer, the Nashville Warbler is only seen near Nashville during migration, as it moves to its wintering grounds in Mexico. It nests on the ground, building a cup of grass, rootlets and plant fibers sheltered in vegetation or in a depression on a steep slope. It lays 3-5 reddish-brown spotted eggs, which are incubated for about 11-14 days by the female; the young are ready to begin fending for themselves about 10 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small, stubby bird with a short tail and a sharp bill. The breeding male has a blue-gray head with a white eye ring, olive-green upperparts, a bright yellow chin and throat, and is yellow beneath with a whitish belly patch. The chestnut crown is usually not visible, except in courtship display or when the bird is alarmed. The female, juvenile and winter male are duller, but still have the distinctive eye ring. The Nashville Warbler often bobs its tail up and down. It forages high in the canopy, catching insects and caterpillars.



LUCY'S WARBLER

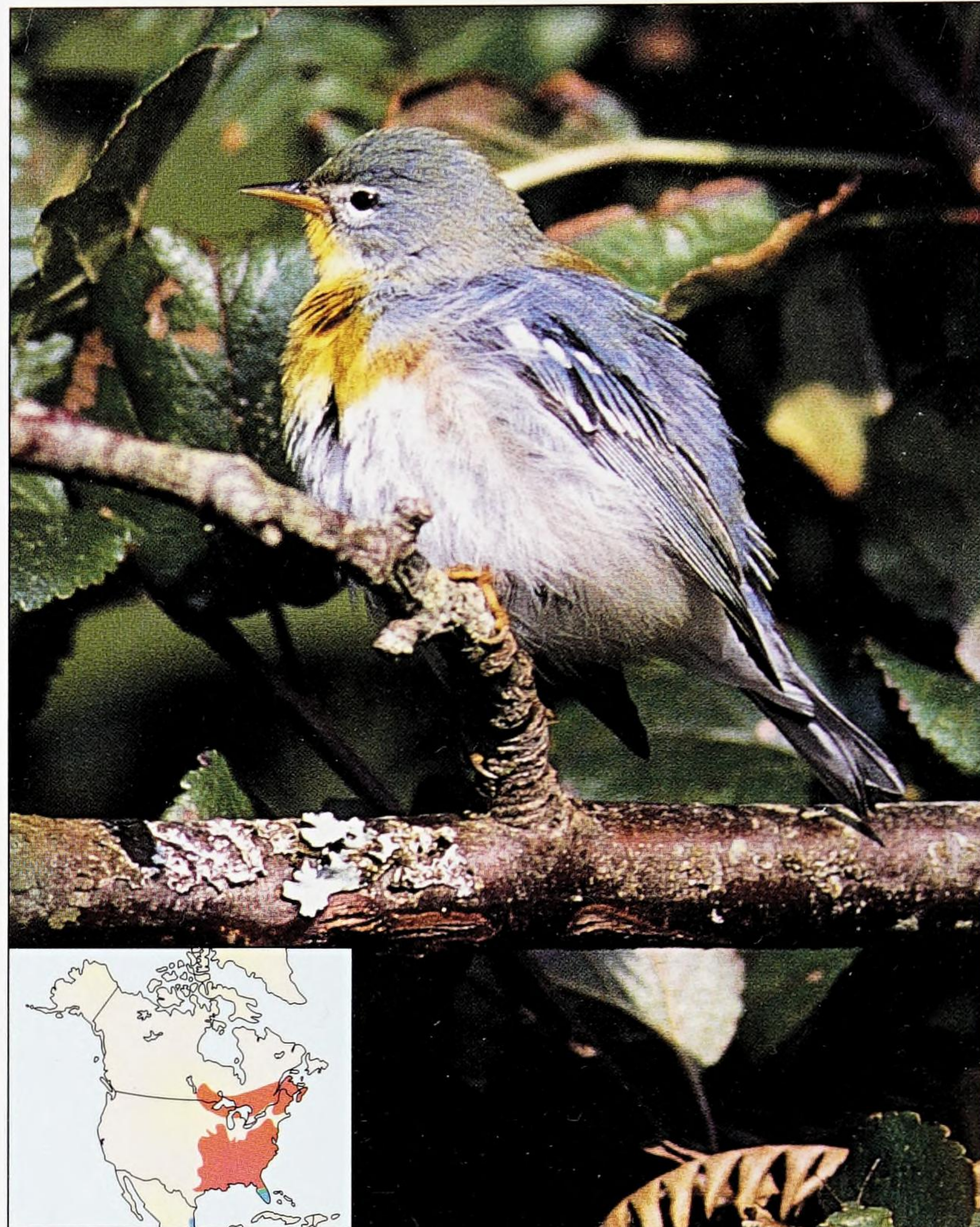
Scientific name:	<i>Vermivora luciae</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Desert, mesquite, cottonwoods
Identification:	Small, short-tailed desert bird with slender bill. Gray above, creamy-white underparts, bright chestnut rump, white eye ring, chestnut crown usually not visible
Similar species:	Only desert warbler

The smallest American warbler - and the only one adapted to live in the desert - Lucy's Warbler is found in the southwest in summer, but spends the winter in Mexico. It prefers mesquite and brushy woods, arriving in early spring and leaving again in late summer. It nests in holes in mesquite branches or under bark, lining the cavity thickly with bark strips, plant fibers, hair and fur, and laying 4 or 5 white eggs, lightly speckled with brown. The adult is a slender, short-tailed bird with a small bill. Its plumage is gray above, with creamy-white underparts, a bright chestnut rump and a white eye ring. It also has a chestnut crown, which is usually not visible except in display. Juveniles are similar to the adult, but have a buff rump. Lucy's Warbler often flicks its tail up and down and moves about rapidly as it hunts for insects.

NORTHERN PARULA

Scientific name:	<i>Parula americana</i>
Length:	4½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed woods near water
Identification:	Small, plump, short-tailed woodland bird with sharp pointed bill. Blue-gray above with greenish upper back, broken white eye ring, bright yellow throat and breast, white belly, two white wing bars. Male has distinct black and rufous breast bands, breast bands of female and juvenile are faint or lacking
Similar species:	Tropical Parula, rare in south Texas, lacks eye ring and black breast band

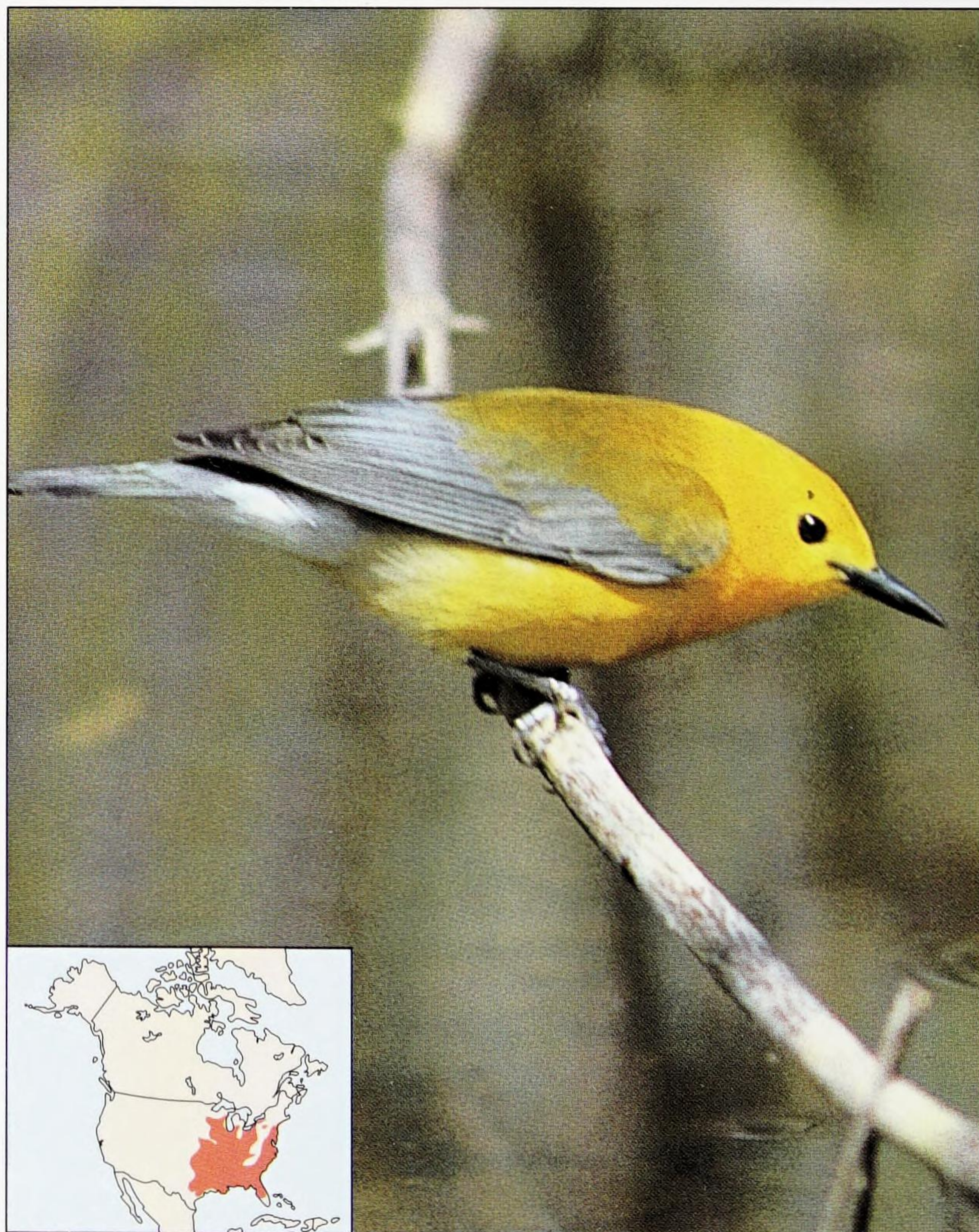
A small warbler, the Northern Parula is common across the east in summer, in coniferous and mixed woodlands; in fall it migrates south to spend the winter in the tropics. Its nest is a loosely woven ball of plant fibers hidden in Spanish moss, usnea lichen or similar hanging plant matter, up to 60 feet above the ground. It lays 3-6 creamy-white eggs, spotted with brown, which are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female. The adult is a small, plump bird with a short tail and a sharp bill. Its plumage is blue-gray above with a greenish upper back, a broken white eye ring, a bright yellow throat and breast, a white belly and two bold white wing bars. The male has distinct black and rufous breast bands; the breast bands of the female and juvenile birds are faint or lacking. The Northern Parula stays high in the tops of trees, hunting for insects and spiders.

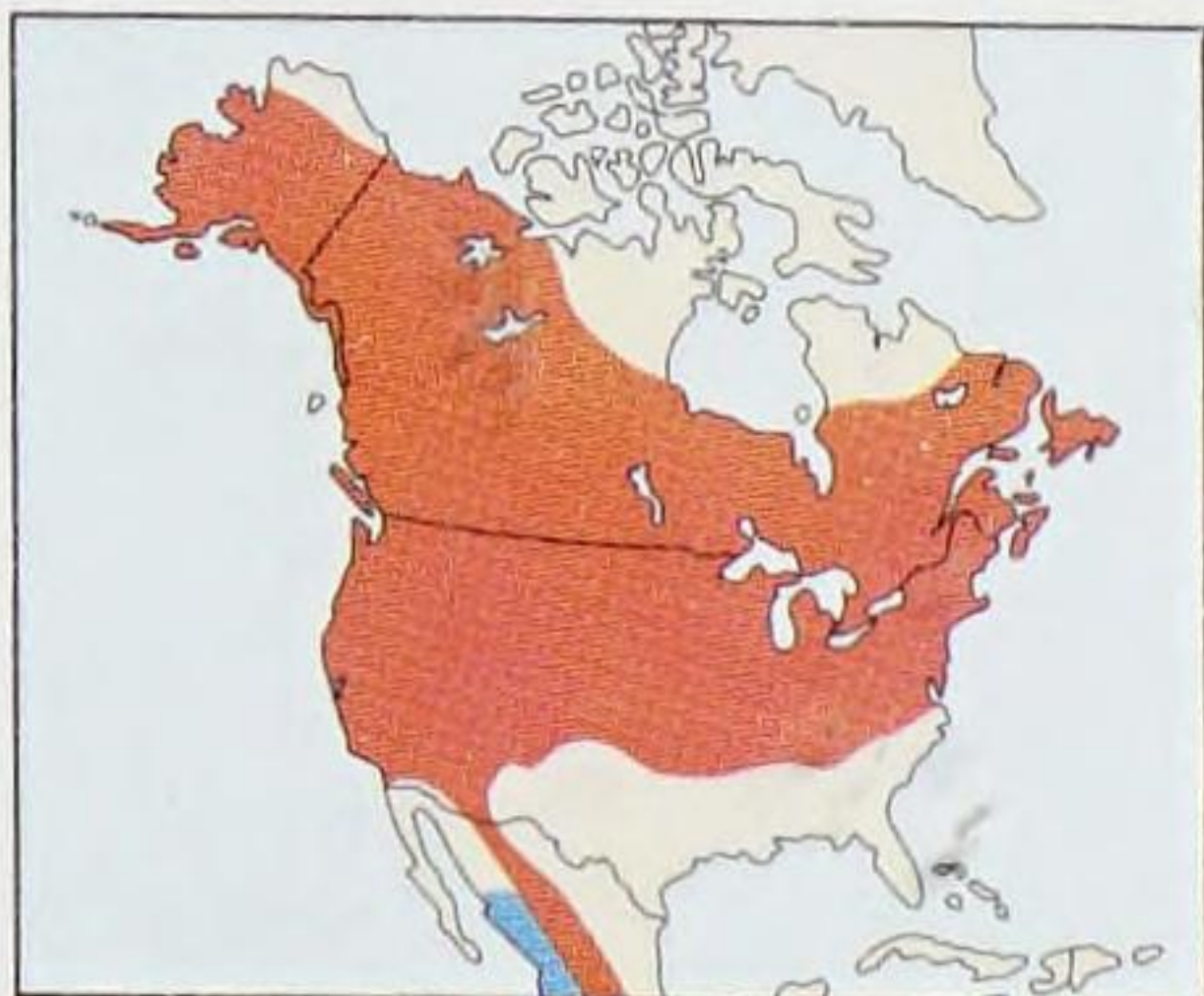


PROTHONOTARY WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Swampy woods
Identification:	Plump, short-tailed woodland swamp bird with long bill. Golden yellow head and underparts, white undertail coverts, blue-gray wings and tail, white tail patches, large dark eyes. Female duller
Similar species:	Several other warblers have similar coloring. Female orioles have white wing bars and thicker bill

The Prothonotary Warbler is fairly common across the southeast in summer, preferring swampy woods and rarely found far from water. It is the only warbler apart from Lucy's to nest in a tree hole, using a natural cavity, abandoned woodpecker hole or any similar site, if possible right next to the water. It lines the hole with plant fiber and moss, and lays 3-7 pinky-white eggs, spotted with gray-brown, which are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female; the young leave the nest around 10-12 days after hatching and are sometimes followed by a second brood. The adult is a plump bird with a short tail and a long bill. It has a golden yellow head and underparts, white undertail coverts, plain blue-gray wings, a blue-gray tail with large white patches, and large dark eyes. The female is duller. The Prothonotary Warbler sings high in trees, and uses its thin, sharp bill to pull insects and spiders from their hiding places.





YELLOW WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Willows, alders, wet open woodland
Identification:	Stout, short-tailed woodland bird with thick bill. Yellow overall, dark eye, wings and tail yellow-olive with yellow markings and spots. Male has chestnut stripes on breast and flanks, female and juvenile duller and may have faint streaking
Similar species:	Male Wilson's Warbler has black cap, females difficult to tell apart

A very common and widespread bird across most of North America, the Yellow Warbler inhabits open woods, often preferring those

along streams, and winters in the tropics - although every year a few birds only move as far as Mexico. It nests in the crotch of a small tree or shrub, building a deep cup of plant material lined with down. The Cowbird will often deposit its egg in a Yellow Warbler nest, usually leading the bird to build another floor over the alien egg and begin all over again - nests have even been found with several floors. The female lays 4 or 5 whitish eggs, spotted with brown, and incubates them for around 9-10 days; the young leave the nest around 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a stout bird with a short tail and a thick bill. It is yellow overall, with dark eyes, and yellow-olive wings and tail with yellow markings and spots. The male has chestnut stripes on breast and flanks, the female and juvenile are duller and may have faint streaking. The Yellow Warbler usually forages around the mid-level in the foliage of trees, where it will hunt for insects and spiders.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

Scientific name: *Dendroica pensylvanica*
Length: 5 inches
Habitat: Second-growth deciduous woods
Identification: Long-tailed woodland bird with stout bill. Breeding male has yellow crown, black eyeline and mustache, white cheeks, white underparts, chestnut stripe on flanks. Female has greenish crown. Fall adults lime green above, white eye ring on pale gray face, two yellow wing bars
Similar species: Breeding plumage distinctive

A bird that prefers open woodland, the Chestnut-sided Warbler is fairly common in the northeast in summer, although it is rarely seen in the west. It nests a few feet above the ground in the fork of a small tree or a shrub, building a cup of bark, plant fiber and down, in which it lays 3-5 creamy-white eggs, spotted with purple-brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female; the young leave the nest around 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is an active bird with a stout bill and a short tail, which it sometimes holds up above the wingtips. The breeding male (*below*) has a yellow crown, a black eyeline and mustache, white cheeks, white underparts, and a chestnut stripe on each flank. The female is duller with a greenish crown. In fall, both adults are lime green above, with a white eye ring on a pale gray face and two yellow wing bars. The Chestnut-sided Warbler stays low in trees, and sometimes darts out to catch a flying insect. It also eats berries and seeds.





BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

(above)

Scientific name:	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed forests, spruce woods
Identification:	Slim, long-tailed woodland bird with pointed wings. Breeding male has bright orange throat, black triangular ear patch, white wing patch, black back with white stripes. Female similar but has orange-yellow throat, two white wing bars on black wings
Similar species:	Unmistakable

The brilliantly colored Blackburnian Warbler is fairly common in conifer woods in the northeast in summer, although it is very rare in the west. It can also be spotted as it migrates through the eastern states to winter in South America. It nests up to 80 feet above the ground on a horizontal branch, building a large, firm cup of twigs, rootlets, lichens and down, in which it lays 4 or 5 greenish-white eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated for around 10-12 days by the female bird. The adult is a slim, streamlined bird with a long tail and pointed wings. The breeding male has a bright orange throat, a black triangular ear patch, a white wing patch, and a black back with white stripes. The female is similar, but has an orange-yellow throat, and two white wing bars on black wings. The Blackburnian Warbler stays high in the upper branches of trees, and mainly eats insects and berries. Several species of warbler often share the same territory, but because they tend to forage at different levels in the trees they do not compete with each other for the available food.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

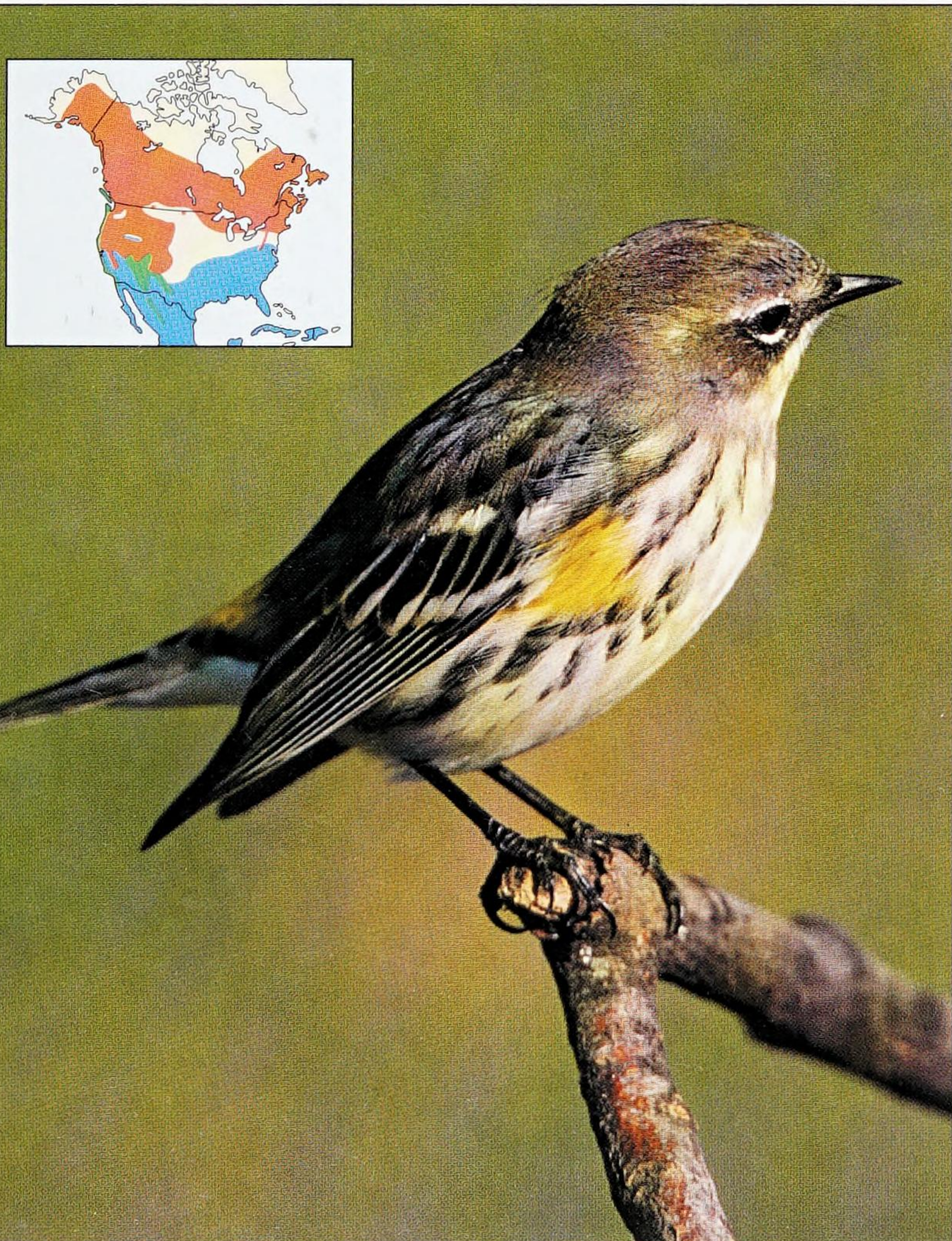
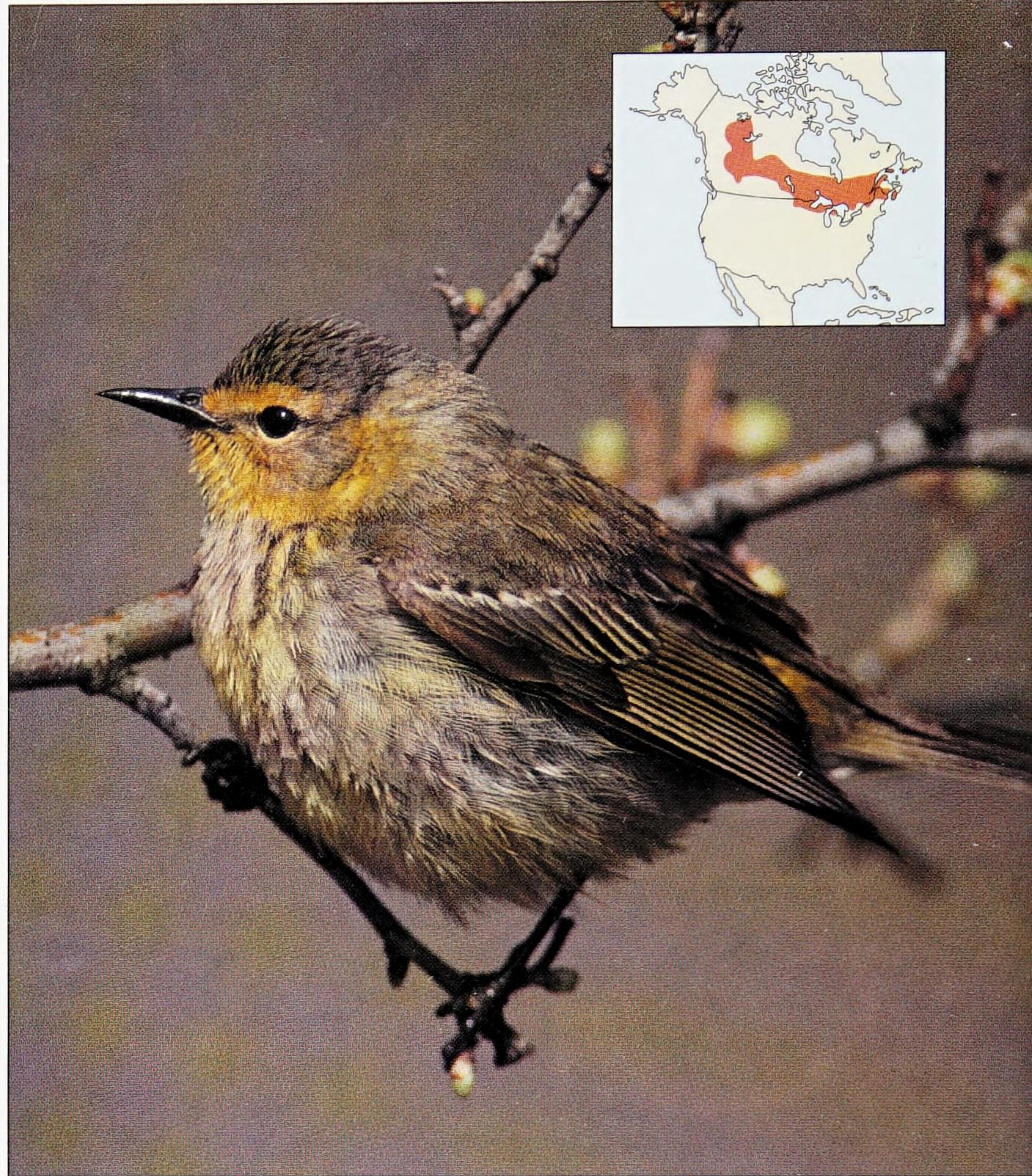
Scientific name:	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Open pine-oak woodland, tall sycamore
Identification:	Long-bodied woodland bird with long bill. Bright yellow throat and upper breast, white neck spot, black crown and face, white eyebrow, gray above, white beneath, black stripes on flanks, white wing bars
Similar species:	Grace's Warbler, only seen in southwestern mountains, is almost identical but lacks white neck spot

In the southeast, the Yellow-throated Warbler begins to arrive at its summer breeding grounds very early in the spring. It prefers open pine forest and sycamore woods along rivers, but when it moves south for the winter some birds stay in Florida palm trees. It nests as much as 120 feet above the ground, weaving a loose cup of plant fibers and down, often concealed in hanging Spanish moss. It lays 4 or 5 greenish-gray eggs, spotted with red or mauve. These are incubated by the female bird, and there is sometimes a second brood in the season. The adult is long-bodied with a long bill. It has a bright yellow throat and upper breast, a distinctive white neck spot, a black crown and face and a white eyebrow, and is gray above and white beneath, with black stripes on the flanks and two white wing bars. The Yellow-throated Warbler forages high in trees, often probing the bark with its long bill to find insects and spiders.

CAPE MAY WARBLER

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica tigrina*
Length: 5 inches
Habitat: Spruce forest
Identification: Short-tailed woodland bird with sharp, dark, slightly down-curved bill. Breeding male is streaked yellow-green above, black crown, chestnut-red ear patch, yellow spot on side of neck, white wing patch, yellow-green patch on rump, yellow underparts with heavy black streaks on breast. Female duller and grayer with two narrow white wing bars
Similar species: Breeding plumage distinctive. Juveniles variable and can be difficult to identify

A small but distinctive bird, the Cape May Warbler spends the summer in northern conifer forests and the winter in the Caribbean, but is seen across much of the east in spring and fall as it migrates between the two. It nests near the top of a conifer, building a large cup of grass, twigs and stems on a horizontal branch, in which it lays 6-8 creamy eggs, spotted with brown and gray. The adult is a short-tailed bird with a sharp, dark, slightly down-curved bill. The breeding male is streaked yellow-green above, with a black crown, a chestnut-red ear patch, a yellow spot on the side of the neck, a large white wing patch and yellow underparts with heavy black streaks on the breast. A yellow-green patch on the rump may not be evident. The female is duller and grayer with two narrow white wing bars. Juveniles are very variable and can be difficult to place. The Cape May Warbler eats insects and spiders, and also punctures fruit to drink the juice.



YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica coronata*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Coniferous and mixed woodland, parks
Identification: Long-tailed woodland bird with stout black bill. Dark gray above with black streaks, white belly. Breeding male has yellow rump, yellow patch on flanks, yellow crown patch, white tail spots. Either yellow throat, white wing patch or white eyebrow, throat and sides of neck, black cheek, two white wing bars. Female and fall males similar but duller
Similar species: Yellow-rumped Warbler is two former species combined, so there are many color variations

The Myrtle Warbler in the east and Audubon's Warbler in the west combined and interbred where their ranges overlapped and are now considered one species, the Yellow-rumped Warbler. It is found across the north in summer and spends the winter in the south and Central America, but is seen in migration across most of the continent. It nests fairly high in a conifer, building a cup of twigs and stems lined with feathers on a horizontal branch, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs, spotted with brown and gray. The adult is a long-tailed bird with a stout black bill and is dark gray above with black streaks and a white belly. The breeding male has a yellow rump, a yellow patch on each flank, a yellow crown patch, and white tail spots. Audubon's has a yellow throat and a white wing patch, the Myrtle a white eyebrow, a white throat extending up the side of the neck, a black cheek and two white wing bars. Female and fall males are similar but duller. The Yellow-rumped Warbler eats insects and spiders, berries and seeds.



MAGNOLIA WARBLER *(above)*

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica magnolia*
Length: 5 inches
Habitat: Damp and open conifer forests
Identification: Long-tailed woodland bird with round head and small bill. Breeding male is gray above, black mask and back, white eyebrow, large white patch on wing, tail white underneath with black terminal band, yellow rump and underparts, heavy black streaks on breast. Fall adults and juveniles gray-olive above, white eye ring, yellowish beneath with faint gray breast band
Similar species: Juvenile Prairie Warbler similar to juvenile Magnolia, but lacks eye ring and breast band

Common in damp coniferous forest, the Magnolia Warbler spends the summer in the north but is seen across much of the east in spring and fall as it migrates. It was discovered in a magnolia tree, hence its name, but otherwise there is no special connection. It nests fairly low down in a conifer, building a loose, shallow cup of grass and rootlets on a horizontal branch, in which it lays 3-5 creamy-white eggs, spotted with brown mainly at the rounded end. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female bird, with the young leaving the nest some 9 days later. The adult is a long-tailed bird with a round head and a small bill. The breeding male is gray above, with a black mask and back, a white eyebrow, a large white patch on the wing, and a yellow rump and underparts with heavy black streaks on the breast. In flight, the tail is white underneath, with a black terminal band. Fall adults and juveniles are gray-olive above with a white eye ring, and yellowish beneath with a faint gray breast band. The Magnolia Warbler eats insects and spiders.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica nigrescens*
Length: 5 inches
Habitat: Oak and juniper woodland, dry foothills, chaparral
Identification: Long-tailed woodland bird with stout bill. Breeding male has black and white striped head, yellow spot between bill and eye, blue-gray back with black stripes, black bib, white below with black stripes on flanks, two white wing bars, white outer tail feathers. Female, juvenile and fall male lack black bib
Similar species: Blackpoll Warbler has white cheeks, Black-and-white Warbler has striped crown

Fairly common in the dry foothills and oak-juniper woods of the west during the summer months, the Black-throated Gray Warbler spends the winter mainly in central Mexico. In the breeding season it nests quite low down in a bush or a tree, building a tightly-woven cup of plant fibers lined with feathers and animal hair, in which it lays 3-5 creamy-white eggs, splashed with brown. The adult has a long, straight tail and a rather stout bill. The breeding male has a black and white striped head, a yellow spot between bill and eye, a blue-gray back with black stripes, a black bib, and is white below with black stripes on each flank, two white wing bars and white outer tail feathers. The female, juvenile and fall male are similar but lack the black bib. The plumage of the Black-throated Gray Warbler provides ideal camouflage in the gray-green of juniper woods, so it can be very hard to see. It eats insects, spiders, and small caterpillars.



BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Dendroica virens</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed forests, cypress swamps
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird with stout bill, bright olive-green back and crown. Male has greenish ear spot, black throat and upper breast, bright yellow face, white underparts tinted yellow across vent and often on breast, sides streaked black, dark gray wings and tail, two white wing bars, white outer tail feathers. Female and juvenile have partly white throat
Similar species:	All black-throated warblers very similar, but Black-throated Green can usually be distinguished by bright olive-green upperparts

In North America a mainly northeastern bird, the Black-throated Green Warbler lives in coniferous forest in the summer - although some birds prefer to breed in cypress swamps along the east coast. It nests up to 80 feet above the ground in a crotch of a tall tree, building a neat cup of plant fibers, moss and bark, in which it lays 4 or 5 creamy-white eggs, marked with brown and purple. The adult has a long, straight tail, a rather stout bill and a bright olive-green back and crown. The male has a greenish ear spot, black throat and upper breast, a bright yellow face and lower breast, white underparts tinted yellow across the vent and often on the breast, black-streaked sides, and dark gray wings and tail with two white wing bars and white outer tail feathers. The female and juvenile have a partly white throat. The Black-throated Green Warbler forages high up and eats insects and berries.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Deciduous forests
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed woodland bird. Male blue above, white beneath with black throat, cheeks and flanks, bold white patch on wing. Female brownish-olive above, buffy underparts, pale eyebrow, pale wing patch
Similar species:	Coloring of both adults is distinctive

The Black-throated Blue Warbler prefers the dark, shady understory of deciduous woods and spends the summer in the northeast, migrating south in fall to winter in the Caribbean - although a few birds stay in southern Florida. It builds its nest near the ground in a dense shrub, creating a firm cup of bark, twigs and plant fiber lined with fine rootlets, in which it lays 3-5 creamy-white eggs, spotted with brown and gray. These are incubated for about 10-12 days by the female and the young are ready to leave the nest some 10 days later. The adult is a stocky bird with a short tail. The male is blue above and white beneath with a black throat, cheeks and flanks and a bold white patch on the wing. The female is brownish-olive above with buffy underparts and a pale eyebrow and pale wing patch. Juveniles are similar to the relevant adult. The Black-throated Blue Warbler stays low and forages in woodland bushes and shrubs, hunting for insects, seeds and berries.



BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Mixed woodland
Identification:	Short-tailed woodland bird with long, down-curved bill. Mainly striped black and white, white crown stripe. Male has black throat and cheeks in breeding season, white chin in winter. Female and juvenile, whitish throat and cheeks, buffy flanks with gray streaks
Similar species:	Breeding male Blackpoll Warbler has black cap, Black-throated Gray Warbler has black crown

Like a nuthatch, the Black-and-white Warbler creeps around the trunks and large branches of trees - the only warbler that behaves in this way. It is common in summer in the mixed woodlands of the eastern states, but also occasionally strays into the west; a few birds spend the winter in Florida, but most head much further south. It builds its nest on the ground, sheltered among the roots of a tree or tucked under a log or rock, creating a thickly-woven cup of bark, moss, twigs and plant fiber, in which it lays 4 or 5 whitish-cream, brown-speckled eggs. These are incubated for 9-12 days and the young leave the nest 1-2 weeks later. The adult is a rather short-tailed bird with a long, slightly down-curved bill. Its plumage is mainly striped black and white, with a white crown stripe. The male has a black throat and cheeks in the breeding season, but in winter has a white chin. The female and juvenile have a whitish throat and cheeks and buffy flanks with gray streaks. The Black-and-white Warbler probes tree bark with its long bill, hunting for insects and spiders.



CERULEAN WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>
Length:	4¾ inches
Habitat:	Tall trees in swamps, riverside trees
Identification:	Small, short-tailed woodland bird with stout bill and pointed wings. Male sky blue above, white beneath with black necklace and black streaking on flanks, two white wing bars. Female blue-green above, yellowish throat and breast, whitish underparts with pale streaking on flanks, pale eyebrow, two white wing bars
Similar species:	Coloring of both adults is distinctive

A rather uncommon bird, the Cerulean Warbler is also difficult to spot because it lives high in the foliage of tall trees. Its summer range is expanding to the northeast, but declining elsewhere; it migrates south in late summer to spend the winter in South America. It builds its nest up to 100 feet above the ground in a fork near the end of a branch, weaving a neat cup of bark, moss and plant fiber, in which it lays 4 or 5 greenish-cream, brown-spotted eggs that are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female. The adult is a small bird with a short tail, stout bill and very pointed wings. The male is sky blue above and white beneath with a black necklace, black streaking on the flanks and two white wing bars. The female is blue-green above with a yellowish throat and breast, whitish underparts with pale streaking on the flanks, a pale eyebrow and darker wings with two bold white wing bars. Juveniles are similar to the female. The Cerulean Warbler forages high in the canopy, hunting for insects.

PRAIRIE WARBLER

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica discolor*
Length: 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat: Dense second-growth woods, scrubland, mangrove swamps
Identification: Small, round-headed woodland bird with long, narrow tail. Olive above, faint chestnut streaks on back, bright yellow eyebrow, yellow patch beneath eye outlined in black, bright yellow beneath with black streaks on sides and flanks, two dull wing bars. Female and juvenile duller
Similar species: Juvenile Magnolia Warbler similar to juvenile Prairie, but has eye ring and gray breast band

Despite its name, the Prairie Warbler is a woodland bird. It is common in summer in the second-growth woods, scrubland and mangrove swamps of the eastern states, occasionally wandering further west; a few birds spend the winter in Florida, but most head much further south. It builds its nest a few feet above ground level in a bush or mangrove, creating a small cup of bark and grass lined with plant down, in which it lays 3-5 whitish-green eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for up to 2 weeks and the young are ready to start fending for themselves some 9-11 days later. The adult is a small, round-headed bird with a long, narrow tail. It is olive above with faint chestnut streaks on the back, and has a bright yellow eyebrow, a yellow patch beneath the eye outlined in black, bright yellow underparts with black streaks on the sides and flanks and two dull wing bars. The female and juvenile are similar but duller. The Prairie Warbler bobs its tail up and down as it forages in underbrush and low branches for insects and spiders.





PALM WARBLER *(above)*

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica palmarum*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Brush near spruce bogs, open ground
Identification: Long-tailed, round-winged woodland bird. Olive above. Eastern breeding adult has chestnut cap, yellow eyebrow, yellow underparts with chestnut streaks on sides. Fall adults and juveniles lack cap and streaking, yellow duller. Western breeding adult similar, but has whitish underparts with darker streaks on sides. Fall adults and juveniles dull brown, no cap, whitish eyebrow, yellow only on undertail coverts
Similar species: Constant tail bobbing is distinctive

The Palm Warbler was discovered on a Caribbean island but is rarely found on palms in North America, preferring the brush and spruce bogs of the north in summer, and open areas and marshes in the southeast in winter. It nests low in a bush or on a mossy mound, building a smallish cup of bark and grass, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs, spotted and splotched with brown. The adult is long-tailed with rounded wings, and is olive above. The less common eastern breeding adult has a chestnut cap, a yellow eyebrow and yellow underparts with chestnut streaks on the sides. Fall adults and juveniles lack the cap and streaking, and the yellow is duller. The western breeding adult is similar, but has whitish underparts with darker streaks on the sides. Fall adults and juveniles are dull brown, with no cap, a whitish eyebrow, and yellow only on undertail coverts. The Palm Warbler forages in the open in winter, bobbing its tail up and down as it hunts for insects and berries.

PINE WARBLER

- Scientific name:** *Dendroica pinus*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Pine trees, mixed woodland
Identification: Stocky, long-tailed, round-headed woodland bird with stout bill. Greenish-olive above, yellow throat and breast with darker streaks on sides, two white wing bars, white belly and undertail coverts. Female plainer and duller, juvenile very variable
Similar species: Yellow-throated Vireo has gray rump, plain sides, thicker bill, well-defined yellow "spectacles"

Common in pine forests in the northeast in summer and in mixed woods in the southeast during the winter, the Pine Warbler is not a long-distance migrant - some birds stay all year round in the southeastern states. In the breeding season it nests up to 80 feet above the ground in a tree - usually a conifer - building a tight cup of stems, bark and pine needles hidden in a tuft of needles near the end of a horizontal branch. It usually lays 4 or 5 greenish-white eggs, which are spotted with brown. The adult is a stocky, long-tailed bird with a rounded head and a rather stout bill. It is greenish-olive above, and has a yellow throat and breast with darker streaks on the sides, two white wing bars on darker wings, and a white belly and undertail coverts. The female is plainer with no streaking and is a duller color. The coloring of the juvenile can be very variable, ranging from plain yellowish to gray-white. The Pine Warbler creeps along branches pressed close to the surface, probing the bark to find insects and spiders; in fall and winter it will also eat seeds and berries.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodland bogs, swamps, thickets
Identification:	Large, short-tailed woodland bird with narrow head and long legs. Olive-brown above, creamy-white below with dense brown streaks, creamy eyebrow, dull pink legs
Similar species:	Louisiana Waterthrush has pink-buff tinge on flanks, large bill, bright pink legs

Rarely found far from water, the Northern Waterthrush spends the summer in the bogs and along wooded streams and ponds across the north. It nests in a cavity on the ground or among roots on the bank of a stream, building a cup of plant material lined with moss, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs, spotted with gray-brown. The adult is a large, short-tailed bird with a narrow head and long legs. It is olive-brown above and creamy-white below with dense brown streaks, and has a creamy eyebrow and dull pink legs. The Northern Waterthrush walks on the ground with a bobbing motion, wagging its tail up and down rhythmically and rapidly. It forages along the edges of the water, lifting leaves and other debris to find the insects and small aquatic animals hiding beneath.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH

Scientific name:	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Mountain streams in dense woodland
Identification:	Large, short-tailed woodland bird with narrow head and long legs. Olive-brown above, creamy-white below with brown streaks, pink-buff tinge on flanks, creamy eyebrow, bright pink legs
Similar species:	Northern Waterthrush lacks pink-buff tinge on flanks, has smaller bill, dull pink legs

Almost identical to the Northern, the Louisiana Waterthrush is less common and has a different range; it also prefers swift mountain streams in dense woods and is rarely found in swamps. It nests in a cavity on the ground or among tree roots near water, building a cup of plant material lined with moss, in which it lays 4-6 white eggs, spotted with gray-brown. The adult is a large, short-tailed bird with a narrow head and long legs. It is olive-brown above and creamy-white below with brown streaks, a pink-buff tinge on each flank, and has a creamy eyebrow and bright pink legs. The Louisiana Waterthrush walks on the ground with a bobbing motion, wagging its tail up and down constantly but slowly. It forages along the edges of the water, lifting leaves and other debris to find the insects and small aquatic animals hiding beneath.





OVENBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Mature forest
Identification:	Large, short-tailed woodland bird with large dark eye. Olive above, white below with dark streaky spots, rust-orange crown edged with blackish stripes, white eye ring, pinkish legs
Similar species:	Similar brown thrushes lack crown stripes

Although it may easily be overlooked, the Ovenbird is actually very common in the woods of the east in summer. It lives close to the

ground, walking with its tail held upright, rather than hopping around like most of the other warblers. It nests on the ground, building a dome-shaped structure of leaves, grass and stems that looks rather like an old-fashioned oven - hence its name - in which it lays 4-6 white eggs, spotted with gray-brown. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female and the young are ready to start fending for themselves some 9-11 days after hatching. The adult is a large, short-tailed bird with a relatively large, dark eye. It is olive above and white below with dark streaky spots, and has a rust-orange crown edged with blackish stripes, a bold white eye ring, and pinkish legs. The Ovenbird picks its way across the forest floor, moving delicately with precise footsteps, as it hunting for insects, earthworms, snails and spiders.



KENTUCKY WARBLER

(above)

Scientific name:	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Wet woodland with dense undergrowth
Identification:	Heavy, short-tailed woodland bird with long legs. Black crown, black below eye down sides of neck, bold yellow "spectacles", bright olive above, yellow below
Similar species:	Common Yellowthroat lacks "spectacles"

A shy and rather secretive bird, the Kentucky Warbler spends the summer in the southeast and is common in areas of rich, damp woodland with very thick undergrowth - although it might be quite hard to spot. It sometimes strays as far west as California and other areas in the southwest. In its breeding area it nests on the bare ground under a bush or among a large clump of weeds, building a fairly large bowl of leaves, grass and stems, in which it lays 3-6 creamy-white eggs, liberally spotted with brown. The adult is a heavy, short-tailed bird with quite long legs. The adult has a black crown and is black below the eye and down the sides of the neck with bold yellow "spectacles", and is bright olive above and yellow below. The female is rather duller, with the black areas less vivid and even seeming much more olive-colored on the juvenile female. The Kentucky Warbler hops and runs on the ground, hidden away for most of the time underneath the dense undergrowth, feeding mainly by plucking the insects and spiders hiding on the undersides of leaves.

MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Dense undergrowth
Identification:	Sturdy, short-winged woodland bird with long body. Gray hood, distinct broken white eye ring, olive above, yellow below. Male has darker face and black across lower breast. Female and juvenile have paler throat
Similar species:	Mourning Warbler lacks distinct broken eye ring but females and juveniles of both species difficult to distinguish

A common western bird, MacGillivray's Warbler is found in the northwest and all down the Pacific coast in summer, spreading eastwards only as far as the Rockies, and spends the winter in Mexico and South America. It nests on or close to the ground among weeds or in a low bush, building a cup of leaves, grass and stems, in which it lays 3-5 white, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated for around 11-13 days by the female, and the young are ready to leave the nest just over a week after hatching. The adult is a sturdy, rather short-winged bird with a long body. It has a gray hood, a distinct broken white eye ring, and is olive above and yellow below. The male has a darker face and is black across the lower breast; the female and juvenile have a paler throat. MacGillivray's Warbler hops, rather than walking. It eats insects and spiders.

MOURNING WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Dense undergrowth, wet woodland, thickets
Identification:	Sturdy, short-tailed woodland bird with long body. Gray hood, olive above, yellow below. Male has darker face and black flecks across breast. Female and juvenile have thin incomplete white eye ring, juvenile often has yellow throat
Similar species:	MacGillivray's Warbler has distinct broken white eye ring but females and juveniles of both species difficult to distinguish. Juveniles have more yellow belly than female Common Yellowthroat

The Mourning Warbler spends the summer in dense woodland undergrowth in the northeast, migrating west of the Appalachians to spend the winter in Central and South America. It nests on the ground among weeds, ferns or grasses, building a cup of leaves, grass and stems, in which it lays 3-6 creamy-white eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated for around 11-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to leave the nest just over a week after hatching. The adult is a sturdy, short-tailed bird with a long body. The adult has a gray hood, and is olive above and yellow below. The male has a darker face and black flecks across the breast. The female and juvenile have a thin, incomplete white eye ring; the juvenile often has a yellow throat. Although the Mourning Warbler usually hides near the ground under dense undergrowth, the male comes out into the open to sing in the breeding season. It eats insects and spiders.





HOODED WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Swamps, damp woodland, dense undergrowth
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird. Olive above, yellow below, tail has white outer feathers and white beneath. Male has black hood framing yellow face. Female usually lacks hood but may have some black round face
Similar species:	Female Wilson's Warbler may resemble female Hooded, but tail is dark beneath

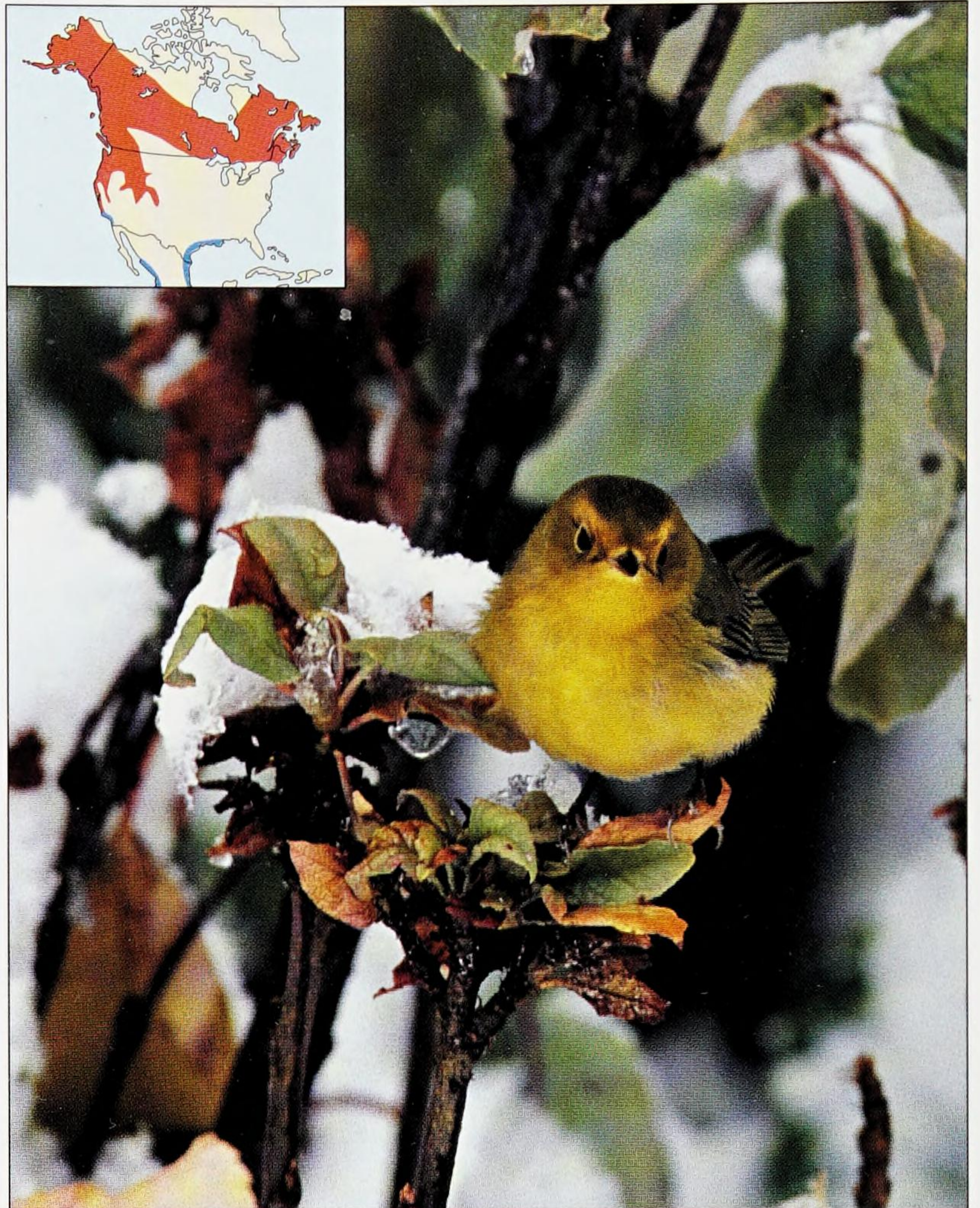
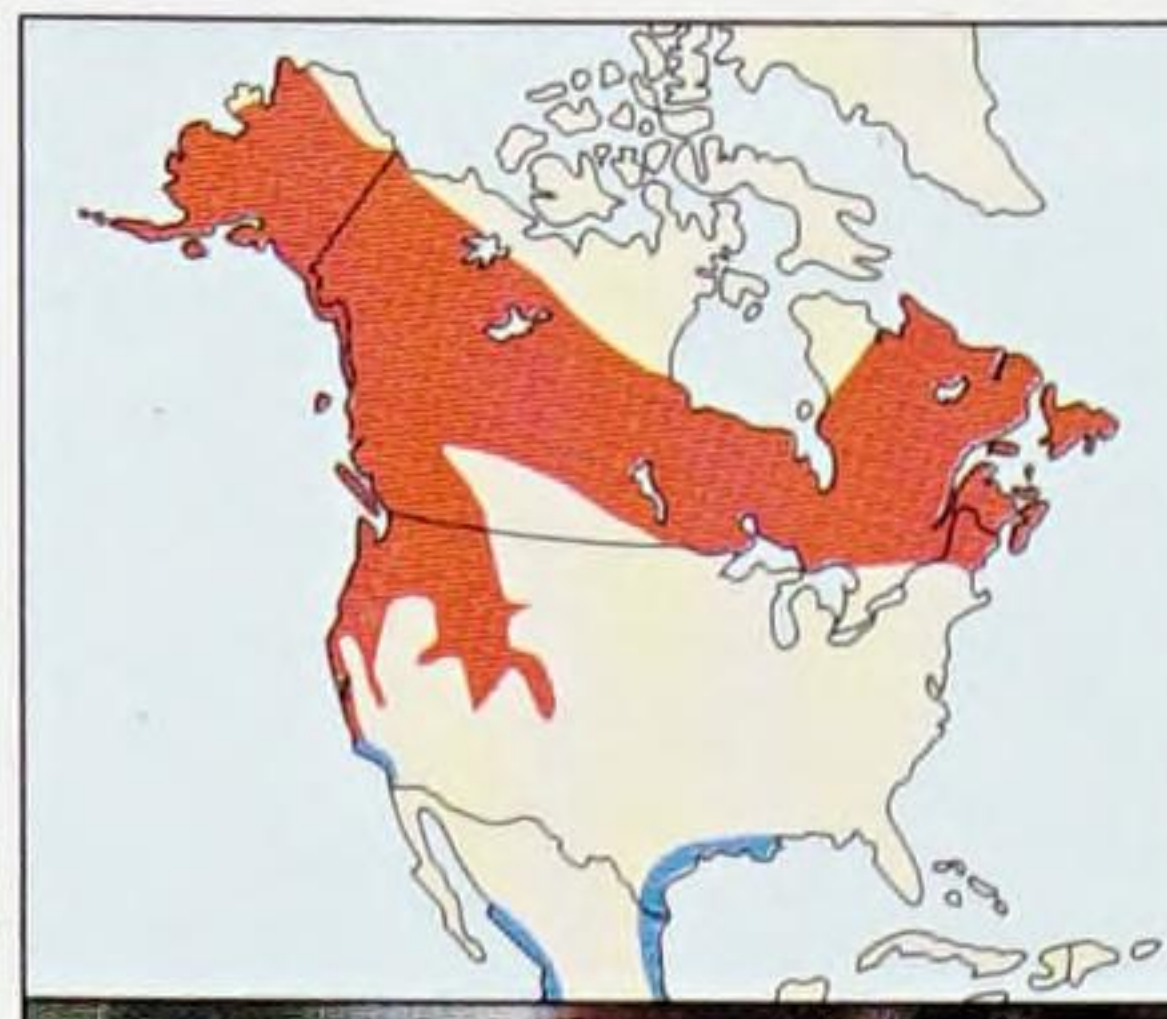
Found across most of the southeast during the summer, the Hooded Warbler prefers leafy and damp deciduous forests where it hides in

the dense and shady undergrowth. In spring and fall it migrates in flocks of hundreds of birds - often along with other small species. In its breeding area it nests very close to the ground in a tree or low bush, building a neat and tidy cup of leaves, bark and plant fibers, in which it lays 3-5 creamy, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated for around 11-13 days, and the young are ready to leave the nest around 8-10 days after hatching. The adult has a long tail, which it flicks continuously while foraging. It is olive above and yellow below, and the tail has white outer feathers and is white beneath. The male has a black hood framing a yellow face, the female usually lacks the full hood but may have some black around the face. The juvenile female has no black around the head. The Hooded Warbler forages for insects and small spiders - the female tends to hunt close to the ground but the male sometimes catches insects in flight.

WILSON'S WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>
Length:	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Dense wet woodland, bogs, willow thickets
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird with small bill and rounded wings. Olive above, yellow below, tail dark above and beneath. Male has black cap
Similar species:	Female Hooded Warbler may resemble female Wilson's, but has white under tail

Although it is common in the west, Wilson's Warbler is much less numerous in the east. It spends the summer in dense, wet woodland, bogs and willow thickets, preferring to be near water, and migrates south to winter in Mexico and Central America. It nests on or near the ground in dense vegetation, building a large cup of leaves and rootlets, in which it lays 3-6 white, brown-spotted eggs. These are incubated for around 9-11 days, and the young are ready to leave the nest around 9-10 days after hatching. The adult has a long, thin tail, a small bill and rather rounded wings. It is olive above and yellow below, and the tail is dark above and beneath. The male has a black cap; the female may have some black on the crown. Wilson's Warbler is easy to spot, as it flits actively around the ends of leafy branches. It eats insects and spiders, which it often catches in flight.



CANADA WARBLER

Scientific name:	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Dense woodland, brush
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird with rounded head. Blue-gray above, yellow below, bold yellow eye ring, white undertail coverts. Male has black streaky necklace, female is duller, necklace indistinct
Similar species:	Plumage distinctive

The Canada Warbler is not only found in Canada, but ranges as far south as Georgia in summer and winters in South America. It prefers dense, leafy woods, preferably near water, where it lives in the undergrowth and up to around mid-level. It nests on or near the ground in dense vegetation, among rocks or in a cavity on a bank, building a large cup of leaves, bark and grass, in which it lays 3-6 cream or white, brown-spotted eggs. The adult has a rather rounded head and a long, thin tail, which it flips constantly when foraging. It is blue-gray above and yellow below, with a bold yellow eye ring and white undertail coverts. The male has a necklace of black streaks, the female is generally duller and may have a rather indistinct necklace. The Canada Warbler lurks in the undergrowth or on low branches, hunting for insects which it sometimes catches in flight.





AMERICAN REDSTART

Scientific name:	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Second-growth woods
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird with short broad bill, rounded wings. Male black, white belly, orange patches on sides, wings and outer tail feathers. Female gray above, white beneath, with yellow patches on sides, wings and outer tail feathers
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

A very distinctive warbler, the American Redstart is common in North America across much of the north and southeast in summer,

where it prefers open deciduous woods. It is rare in the southwest and spends the winter in Mexico and northern South America. It nests up to 70 feet above the ground in an upright crotch of a tree, building a firm cup of twigs lined with finer material, in which it lays 3-5 creamy-white or bluish eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated for around 11-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to leave the nest just under 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a long-tailed bird with a short broad bill and rounded wings. The male is black, with a white belly and orange patches on the sides, wings and outer tail feathers. The female is gray above and white beneath, with yellow patches on the sides, wings and outer tail feathers. The American Redstart fans its tail and spreads its wings frequently to flash its bright patches, so it is fairly easy to spot. It eats insects and spiders, frequently caught in midair.



YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

(above)

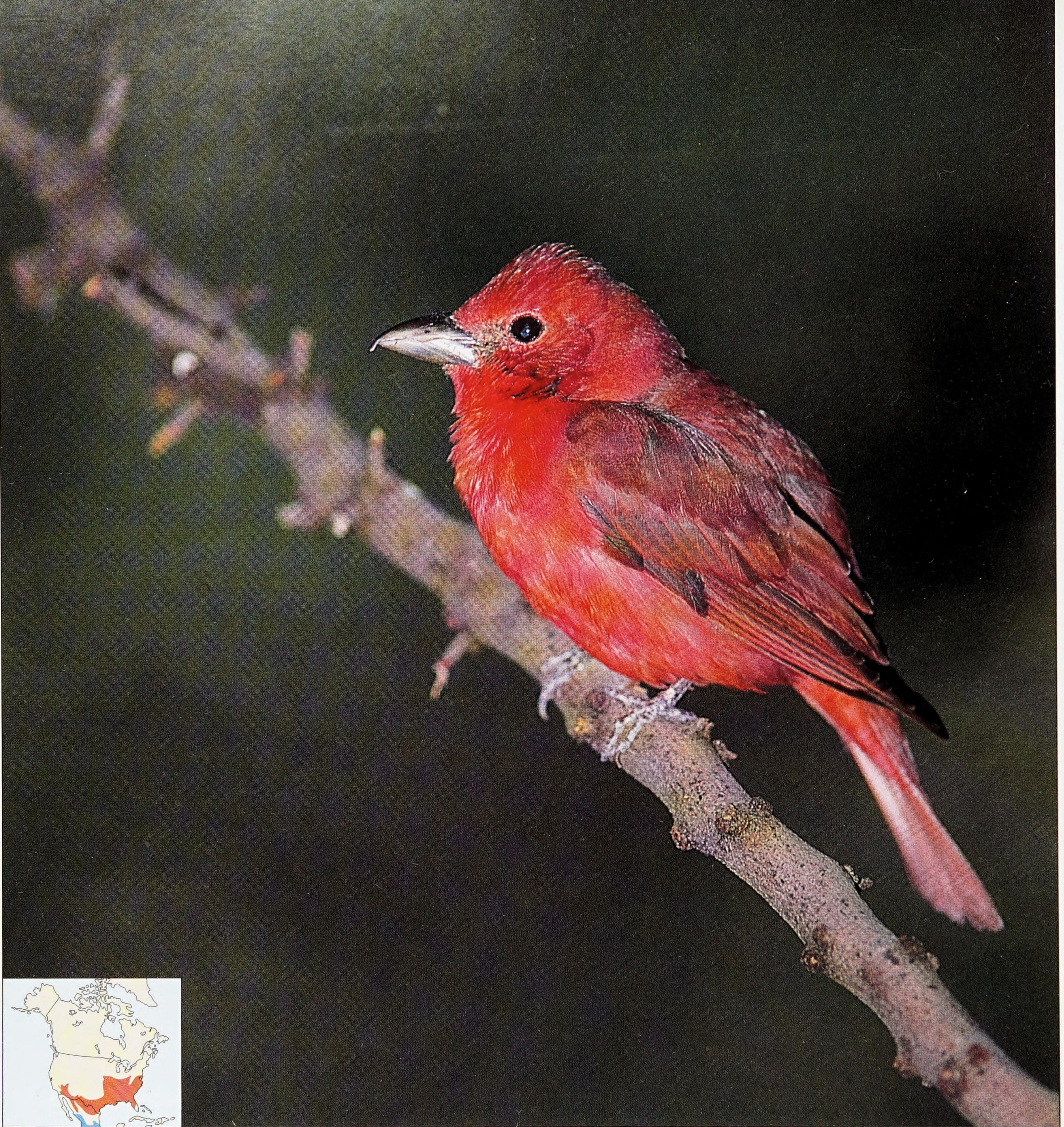
Scientific name:	<i>Icteria virens</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Dense thicket, brush
Identification:	Long-tailed woodland bird with thick black bill, rounded wings. Olive-brown above, gray head with white "spectacles", black eye patch, bright yellow throat and breast, white belly
Similar species:	Common Yellowthroat smaller, with different face markings

The largest warbler seen in North America, the distinctive Yellow-breasted Chat is rather shy and prefers dense thickets, so may be difficult to spot. It nests low in a bush or tangle of vegetation, building a cup mainly of grass, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs, spotted with brown and lilac. These are incubated for around 11-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to leave the nest 1-2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a long-tailed bird with a thick, black bill and rounded wings. It is olive-brown above, and has a gray head with white "spectacles", a black eye patch, a bright yellow throat and breast and a white belly. The male and female look alike, the juvenile is paler and lacks the eye patch. The Yellow-breasted Chat often mimics other birds and the male displays by hovering with slow-flapping wings and its legs dangling, while it sings. It eats insects and berries.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

Scientific name:	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Grassy fields, open marshes
Identification:	Stumpy grassland bird with short neck, small bill, round tail and wings. Male olive-green above, bright yellow below fading to dull white belly, black mask edged with white across crown. Female brownish olive above, buffy beneath with yellow on throat
Similar species:	Juvenile Mourning Warbler like female Common Yellowthroat but has yellow belly

One of the most widespread warblers in North America, the Common Yellowthroat is found in summer across most of the continent and some birds also spend the winter across the south. It prefers grassland, marshes and other open habitats with low vegetation, rather than woods. It nests on or near the ground among weeds or grasses or in a low shrub, building a bulky, woven cup of plant material lined with fine grass, in which it lays 3-6 white eggs, marked with brown. These are incubated for around 11-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to leave the nest just over a week after hatching. The adult is a rather stumpy bird with a short neck, small bill, and a rounded tail and wings. The male is olive-green above and bright yellow below, fading to a dull white on the belly, and has a black mask edged with white across the crown. The female is brownish olive above and buffy beneath, with yellow on the throat. The Common Yellowthroat spends much of its time hidden in dense undergrowth, but the male climbs a tall stalk to sing in the breeding season. It eats insects and spiders.



SUMMER TANAGER

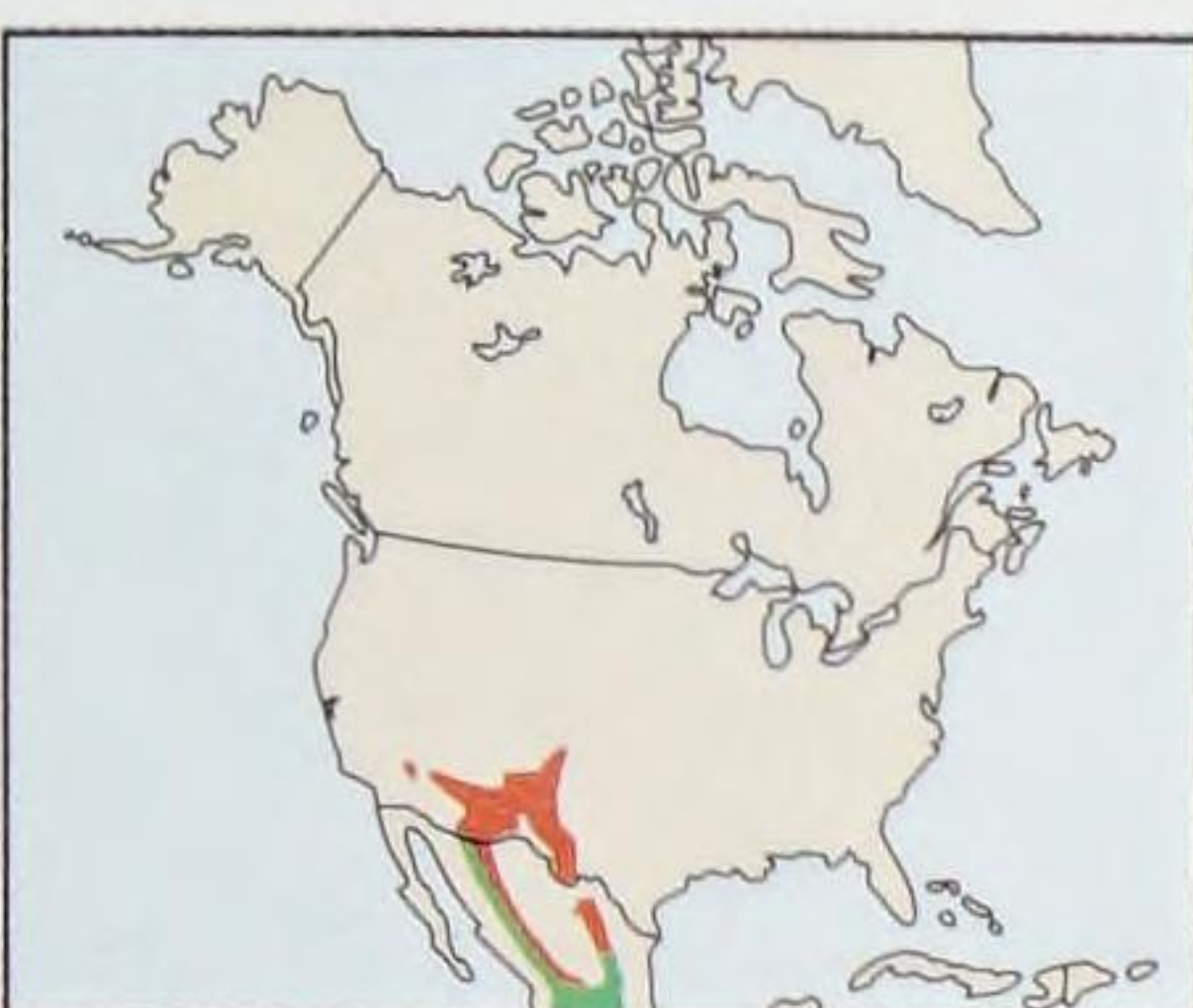
Scientific name:	<i>Piranga rubra</i>
Length:	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Pine-oak woods, cottonwood groves
Identification:	Large woodland bird with stout pale yellow bill and small crest. Male rosy-red, female olive-yellow above, orange-yellow beneath, greenish under tail. Juvenile has variable amounts of yellow and red
Similar species:	Hepatic Tanager has gray cheeks and dark bill. Female similar to female Scarlet Tanager, but tail is greenish beneath instead of gray

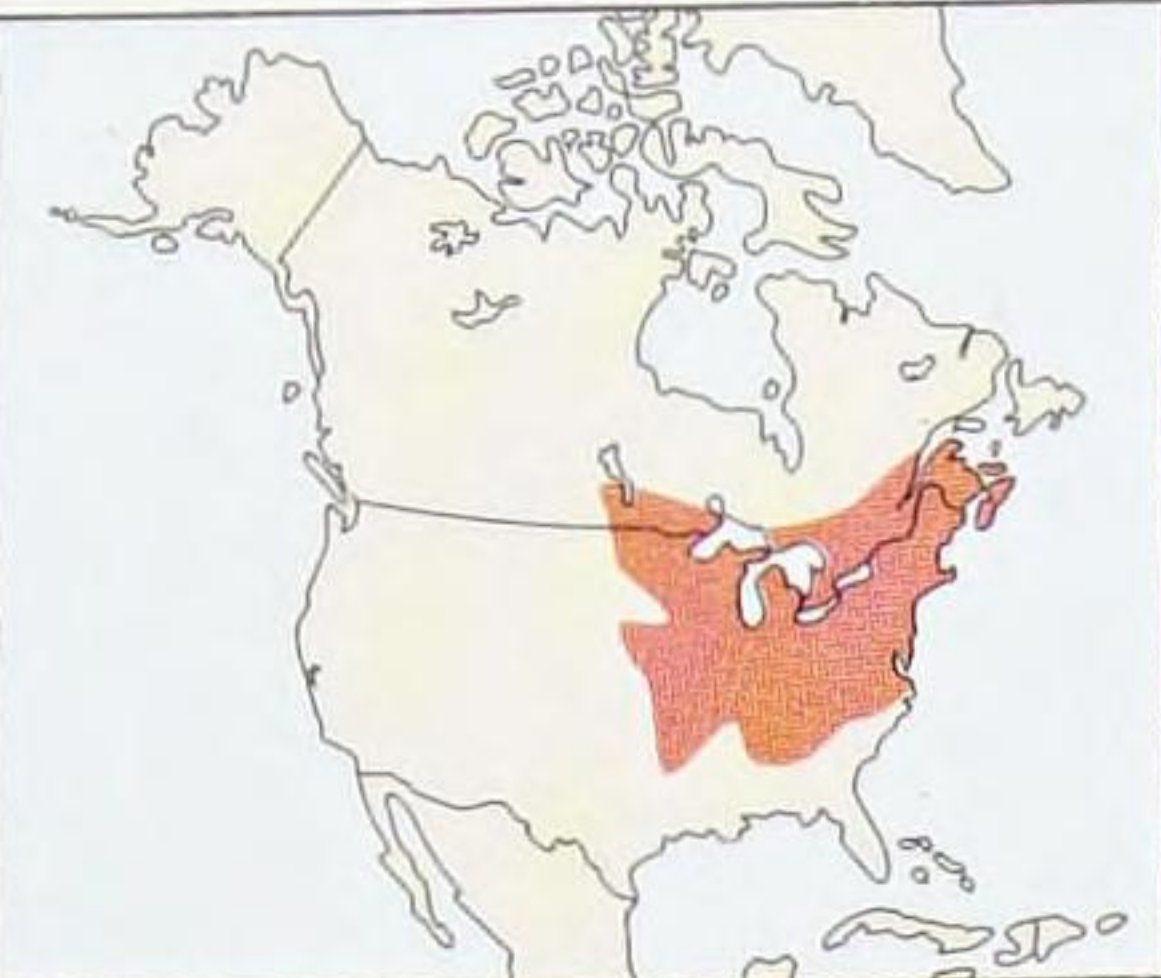
Found across the south in summer, the Summer Tanager lives in pine-oak forest in the southeast and streamside cottonwoods in the southwest and rarely spreads any further north than its mapped range. It nests up to 35 feet above the ground in a tree, building a rather frail and shallow cup of grass and leaves on a horizontal branch, in which it lays 3 or 4 blue-green eggs with brown blotches. The adult is a large bird with a stout pale yellow bill. The male is overall rosy-red, the female is olive-yellow above, orange-yellow beneath; its tail is greenish underneath. The juvenile has variable amounts of yellow and red. Birds in the west tend to be larger and paler than those in the east, and the female may have more gray above. The Summer Tanager forages high in the canopy and eats insects, larvae, spiders and berries - it also eats fruit.

HEPATIC TANAGER

Scientific name:	<i>Piranga flava</i>
Length:	8 inches
Habitat:	Mixed mountain forest
Identification:	Large woodland bird with stout dark gray bill. Male red-orange, gray cheek patch, gray wash on flanks. Female olive-green above, gray cheek patch, deep yellow beneath
Similar species:	Summer Tanager lacks gray cheeks, has pale bill

A tropical bird, the Hepatic Tanager is only found in North America in the northwest in summer, where it lives in mountainous pine-oak forest. It nests up to 30 feet above the ground in a tree, building a rather shallow cup of rootlets, grass and weeds on a horizontal branch, in which it lays 3-5 bluish eggs with heavy brown and lilac blotches. The adult is a large bird with a stout dark gray bill. The male is red-orange, with a gray cheek patch and a gray wash on the flanks. The female is olive-green above with a gray cheek patch, and is deep yellow beneath. The juvenile resembles the female, but is streaked overall. The Hepatic Tanager eats insects, larvae, spiders and berries - it is particularly fond of bee and wasp larvae. In its winter grounds it also eats fruit.





SCARLET TANAGER

- Scientific name:

Piranga olivacea
- Length:

7 inches
- Habitat:

Leafy forest
- Identification:

Medium-size woodland bird with thick gray bill. Male has black wings and tail, white wing linings, in breeding season is brilliant red overall, in winter greenish-yellow. Female is greenish-yellow with darker wings and tail, white wing linings
- Similar species:

Male distinctive. Female similar to female Summer Tanager, but tail is gray beneath instead of greenish

The Scarlet Tanager lives in the leafy deciduous forests of the northeast in summer, but is also seen across the southeastern

states as it migrates to the tropics in fall for the winter, and when it returns in spring. It nests up to 75 feet above the ground in a tree, building a shallow cup of grass and leaves at the tip of a horizontal branch, in which it lays 3-5 blue-green eggs finely spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks, with the young leaving the nest about 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a medium-size bird with a thick gray bill. The male has black wings and tail, with white wing linings, and is brilliant red overall in the breeding season and greenish-yellow in winter. The female is greenish-yellow, with darker wings and tail and white wing linings. The Scarlet Tanager usually forages high in the canopy, but may come down lower to hunt for food as it migrates. It eats insects, caterpillars, spiders and berries - as is very popular with gardeners because of its voracious appetite for garden pests.



WESTERN TANAGER

Scientific name:	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous forest, mountain pine woods
Identification:	Medium-size woodland bird with long pointed wings. Male has brilliant red head, bright yellow body, black wings and tail, upper wing bar yellow, lower wing bar white. Female is yellow-green above, yellow below, wing bars as male
Similar species:	Male distinctive. Female similar to female orioles, but has thicker bill

In cool conifer forests and mountain pine woods across the west the Western Tanager is fairly common in summer, but it is also seen in

many different habitats during its migration across the western states. It nests up to 65 feet above the ground in a fork on the horizontal branch near the top of a tall conifer, building a shallow saucer of moss, stalks and bark. It lays 3-5 bluish-green eggs finely spotted with brown, which are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks. The adult is a medium-size bird with a fairly small, thick bill and long, pointed wings. The male has a brilliant red head, a bright yellow body and black wings and tail, with two wing bars - the upper yellow and the lower white. The female is yellow-green above and yellow below, with the same wing bars as the male. The Western Tanager usually forages high in the canopy, but may come down lower to hunt for food as it travels in migration. It generally eats insects - which it will often catch on the wing - berries and other small fruit. Although it looks wonderful, like other tanagers it does not have a notable song.



EASTERN TOWHEE

Scientific name:	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Second-growth woods with dense undergrowth
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird with long tail and rounded wings. Blackish upperparts and hood, white wing patch and corners to tail, red flanks, white belly
Similar species:	Spotted Towhee has white spotting on wings, back and corners of tail, American Robin has red breast

Once known as the Rufous-sided Towhee - along with what is now known as the Spotted Towhee - the Eastern Towhee is currently

accepted as a separate species - although the two will interbreed wherever their ranges overlap. The Eastern Towhee is common across most of the southeast, with some birds spreading north in summer and west in winter. In its breeding area it nests on the ground, building a cup of grass, twigs and rootlets, in which it lays 2-6 cream or greenish eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for just under 2 weeks and the young are ready to leave the nest around 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird with a long tail and rounded wings. It has a blackish hood and upperparts with a white wing patch and corners to the tail, red flanks and a white belly. The female is chocolate-brown above but otherwise similar, the juvenile is brownish and streaked. The Eastern Towhee forages on the ground for insects, spiders, seeds and berries.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE

(below)

Scientific name:	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Dense brush, chaparral, high plateaus
Identification:	Medium-size ground-dwelling bird with long tail and rounded wings. Rusty-red cap, olive-green above, white throat with dark mustache mark, gray breast, white belly
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

Common in dense brush and chaparral in the west in summer the Green-tailed Towhee spends the winter across the far south and down into Mexico. In its breeding area it nests on the ground or low down in a dense bush or cactus, building a loose, deep cup of plant fibers, in which it lays 4 white eggs heavily spotted with brown. The adult is a medium-size bird with a fairly long tail and rounded wings. It has a rusty-red cap and is olive-green above, with a white throat crossed by a dark mustache mark, a gray breast, and a white belly. The juvenile is heavily streaked and lacks the reddish crown. The Green-tailed Towhee often raises its head feathers in a small crest and also runs with its tail held high to distract intruders near the nest site. It hunts for food under cover, scratching at the ground to find seeds, berries and insects.



SPOTTED TOWHEE

Scientific name:	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Chaparral, open woods, brushy hillsides
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird with long tail and rounded wings. Blackish upperparts and hood with bold white spots on wings, back and corners of tail, red flanks, white belly
Similar species:	Eastern Towhee lacks white spotting

The Spotted and the Eastern Towhee were once considered to be one species, known as the Rufous-sided Towhee. The Spotted is common across most of the west, with some birds spreading northeast in summer and southeast in winter. In its breeding area it nests on the ground, building a cup of grass, twigs and rootlets, in which it lays 2-6 cream or greenish eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for just under 2 weeks and the young are ready to start fending for themselves some 10-12 days later. The adult is a stocky bird with a long tail and rounded wings. It has a blackish hood and upperparts with bold white spots on the wings, back and corners of the tail, red flanks and a white belly. The female may be the same or more gray and the juvenile is brownish and heavily streaked, and lacks the red flanks. The Spotted Towhee forages on the ground for insects, spiders, seeds and berries.





CALIFORNIA TOWHEE

Scientific name: *Pipilo crissalis*

Length: 9 inches

Habitat: Chaparral, parks, gardens

Identification: Stocky ground-dwelling bird with long tail and rounded wings. Brownish overall, buffy beneath, throat bordered with line of dark brown spots, cinnamon-brown undertail coverts

Similar species: Canyon Towhee paler and grayer, reddish crown, whitish belly patch with blurry dark spot above

The California and the Canyon Towhee were once considered to be one species, known as the Brown Towhee. The California lives

mainly in the chaparral, parks and gardens of western California, spreading south into Mexico and with a few birds in southwest Oregon. It nests on or just above the ground, building a cup of grass, twigs and stems, in which it lays 3 or 4 bluish-green eggs lightly spotted with brownish-black. These are incubated by the female for 9-11 days and the young are ready to leave the nest around 8 days after hatching, often making way for a second or third brood. The adult is a stocky bird with a long tail and rounded wings. It is brownish overall and buffy beneath, the throat is bordered with a line of dark brown spots, and it has cinnamon-brown undertail coverts. The juvenile is streaked beneath and has faint wing bars. The California Towhee forages quietly under cover, scratching the ground for seeds, grain and insects. On overcast days it may come out onto lawns to feed.

CANYON TOWHEE

Scientific name:	<i>Pipilo fuscus</i>
Length:	8 inches
Habitat:	Arid hills, desert canyons, brushy areas
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird with long tail and rounded wings. Gray-brown overall, reddish crown, paler beneath, throat bordered with line of dark brown spots, whitish belly patch with blurry dark spot above, cinnamon-brown undertail coverts
Similar species:	California Towhee darker and browner, lacks reddish crown, whitish belly patch and blurry dark spot

Once known as the Brown Towhee, along with the California, the Canyon Towhee is now accepted as a separate species. The Canyon lives mainly in arid, hilly areas and desert canyons across the far southern states and south into Mexico. It nests on or just above the ground, building a cup of grass, twigs and stems, in which it lays 3 or 4 bluish-green eggs lightly spotted with brownish-black. These are incubated by the female for 9-11 days and the young are ready to leave the nest around 8 days after hatching, often making way for a second or third brood. The adult is a stocky bird with a long tail and rounded wings. It is gray-brown overall with a reddish crown, paler beneath, the throat is bordered with a line of dark brown spots and it has a whitish belly patch with blurry dark spot above, and cinnamon-brown undertail coverts. The Canyon Towhee forages quietly for seeds, grain and insects.

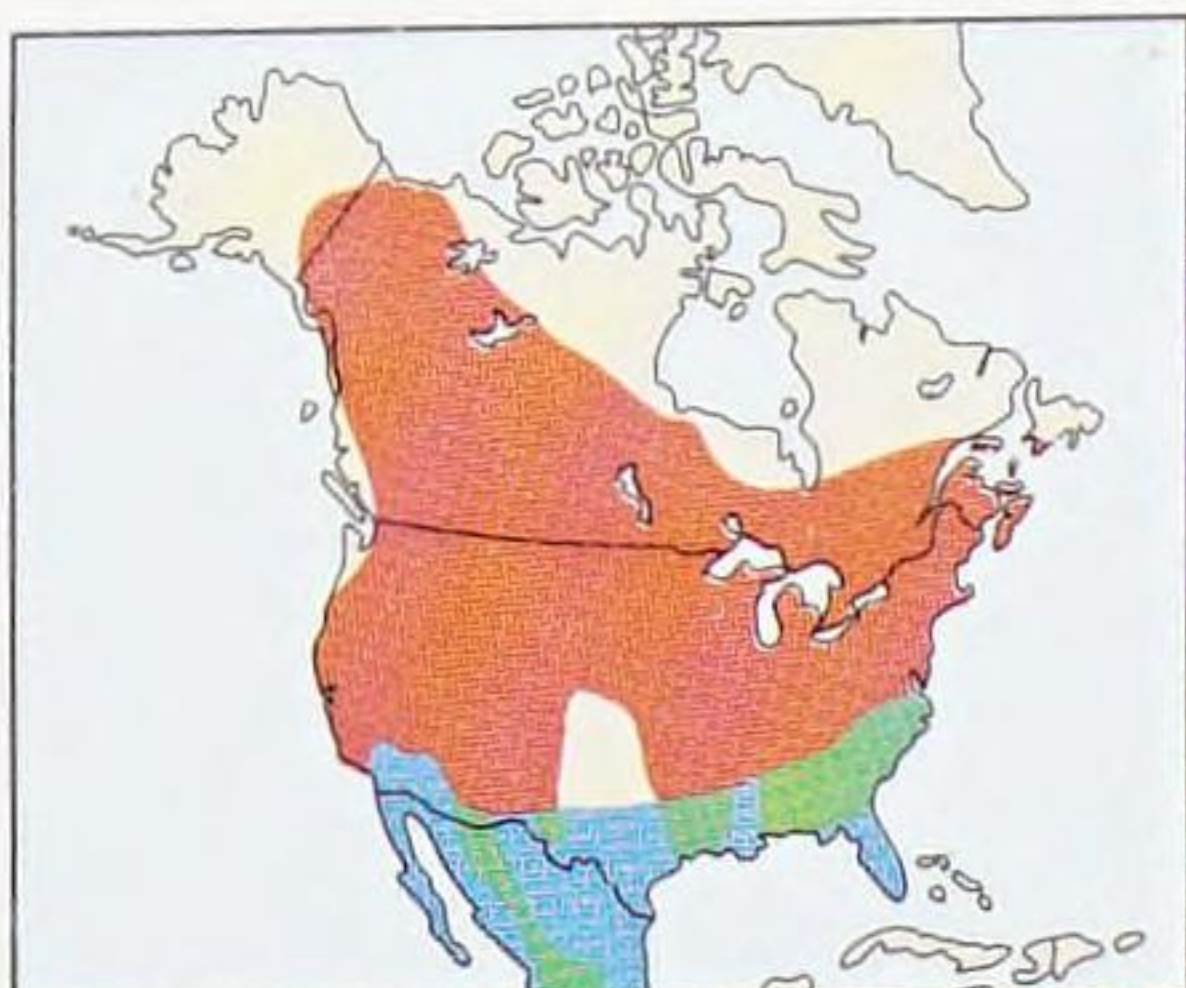


ABERT'S TOWHEE

Scientific name:	<i>Pipilo aberti</i>
Length:	9½ inches
Habitat:	Desert woodland, riverside thickets, dense underbrush
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird with long tail and rounded wings. Black face, warm brown above, paler beneath, buffy belly, cinnamon undertail coverts
Similar species:	Similar to Canyon and California, but black face distinctive

Common within its limited range, Abert's Towhee is a very shy and secretive bird that hides in dense thickets and is difficult to spot - although its loud and frequent calls can easily be heard. It also sometimes lives in suburban backyards and orchards, but prefers to be near water. It is very similar to both the Canyon and California towhee and their ranges overlap, but it does not interbreed. It nests close to the ground, building a cup-shaped mass of bark strips, stems and other plant fibers, in which it lays 3 or 4 pale blue-green eggs spotted with brown. The adult is a stocky bird with a long tail and rounded wings. It has a black face and is warm brown above, paler beneath, with a buffy belly and cinnamon-brown undertail coverts. Abert's Towhee forages quietly for seeds and insects.





CHIPPING SPARROW

Scientific name: *Spizella passerina*

Length: 5½ inches

Habitat: Backyard lawns, grassy fields, woodland edges

Identification: Medium-size sparrow with longish tail. Rust-red crown above white eyebrow and black eyeline, gray cheeks, collar and underparts, brown back with dark streaking, two white wing bars

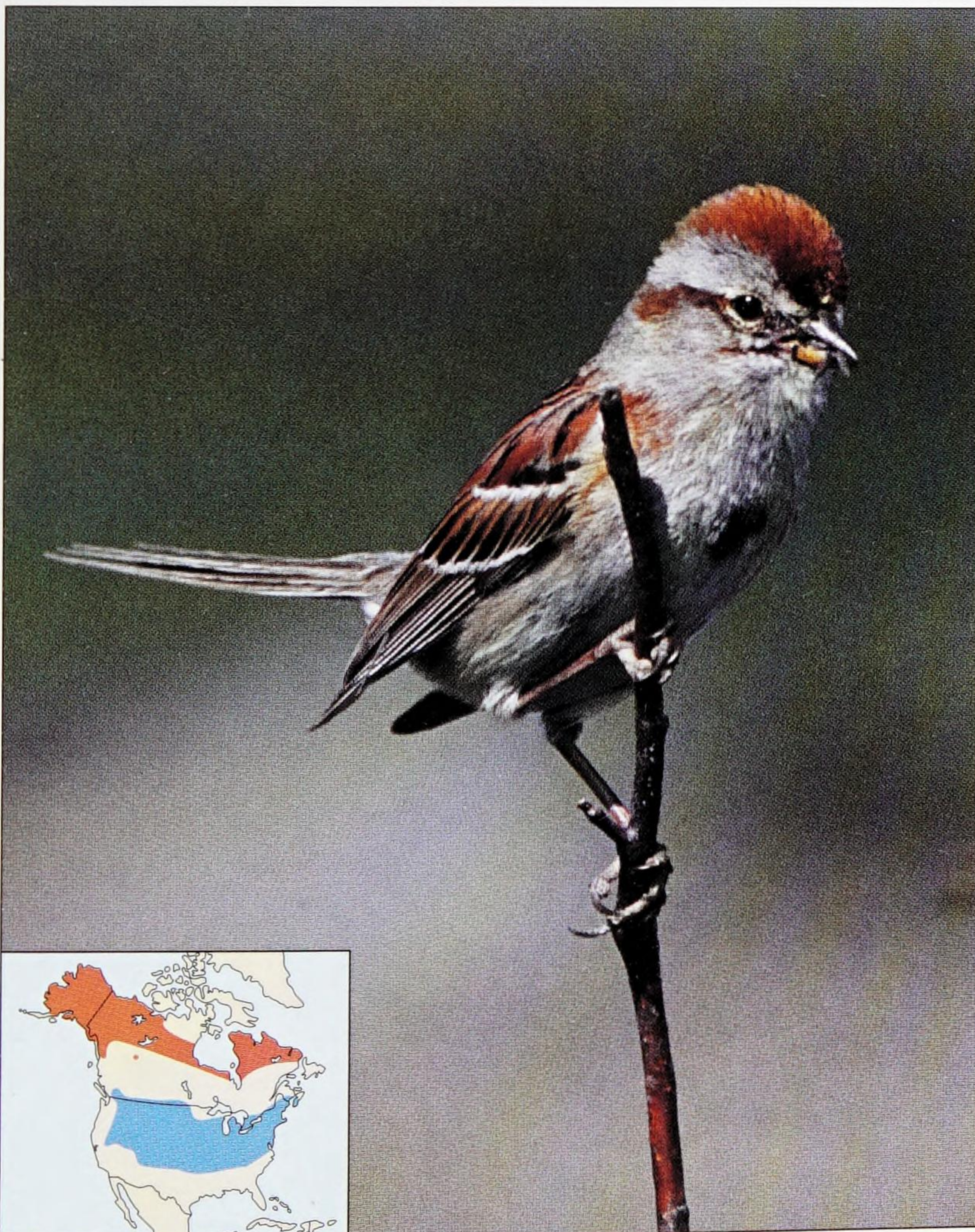
Similar species: Rufous-winged Sparrow larger and more secretive. Fall birds have less sharp coloring and may suggest Clay-colored or Brewer's sparrow although they have brown rump instead of gray

Widespread and common across most of North America in summer, the Chipping Sparrow is often seen in backyards and gathers in flocks in the south in winter. It nests up to 40 feet above the ground in a bush or tree, building a neat cup of plant fibers lined with animal hair, in which it lays 3-5 pale blue eggs, marked with brown, black and purple mainly at the rounded end. These are incubated by the female for up to 2 weeks and the young leave the nest after around 9-12 days. The adult is a medium-size sparrow and has a longish, slightly notched tail. It has a rust-red crown above a white eyebrow and black eyeline, plain gray cheeks, collar and underparts, a brown back with dark streaking, and two white wing bars. The juvenile is similar, but has some streaking below. The Chipping Sparrow often feeds in the open and eats insects and seeds.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW

- Scientific name:** *Spizella pallida*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Brushy fields, groves, riverside thickets
Identification: Medium-size sparrow with longish tail. Brown crown with black streaks and white central stripe, whitish eyebrow, brown cheek with dark outline, dark mustache mark, buffy breast, whitish belly, gray nape, brown back with dark streaking, brown rump, two light wing bars
Similar species: Chipping Sparrow has gray rump. Brewer's Sparrow lacks central crown stripe and has whitish eye ring and less contrasting head markings

In summer, the Clay-colored Sparrow is common across central North America in brushy areas; it migrates across the central states to spend the winter in Mexico - although a few birds remain in southern Texas. Although its habitat has been destroyed in some areas, deforestation has extended it in others, so its range has increased. It nests on the ground or just above in a dense shrub, building a well-constructed cup of grass and twigs lined with animal hair, in which it lays 3-5 bluish eggs, which may be marked with brown. These are incubated by both birds for up to 2 weeks and the young leave the nest after around 8-10 days. The adult is a medium-size sparrow and has a longish, slightly notched tail. It has a brown crown with black streaks and a white central stripe, a whitish eyebrow, brown cheeks with a dark outline, a dark mustache mark, and a buffy breast and whitish belly. Its nape is gray and its back brown with dark streaking, and it has a plain brown rump and two light wing bars. The Clay-colored Sparrow eats insects and seeds.



AMERICAN TREE SPARROW

- Scientific name:** *Spizella arborea*
Length: 6½ inches
Habitat: Tundra, open areas with groves of trees, brushy fields
Identification: Large sparrow with long tail. Chestnut cap and eye stripe, gray head and nape, gray underparts with dark spot on center of breast and chestnut patch at side, red-brown back with dark streaking, two white wing bars
Similar species: Chipping and Field sparrows smaller and lack breast spot

A bird which prefers colder climates and can tolerate subzero temperatures, the American Tree Sparrow spends the summer in the tundra zone and winters across central North America. It nests on or very near the ground, building a cup of plant fibers lined with feathers, in which it lays 4 or 5 pale blue eggs, speckled with brown. These are incubated by the female for just under 2 weeks and the young leave the nest to start fending for themselves after around 9-11 days. The adult is a large sparrow and has a long, slightly notched tail and a bill that is dark above and yellow below. It has a chestnut cap and eye stripe, a gray head and nape, gray underparts with a dark spot at the center of the breast and a chestnut patch at the side, a red-brown back with dark streaking, and two white wing bars. Birds in the west tend to be paler than those in the east. The American Tree Sparrow mainly eats seeds, but will also take insects and spiders.



VESPER SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Dry grassland, forest clearings, sagebrush, open prairie
Identification:	Large sparrow with long tail. Streaked brown above and on throat and breast, pale narrow eye ring, dark ear patch outlined in white below and behind, creamy-white belly, white outer tail feathers, chestnut spot on shoulder may not be evident
Similar species:	Savannah Sparrow has bold eyebrow and white central crown stripe

Common in the west but less so in the east, the Vesper Sparrow prefers to spend the summer on prairies and other open, dry areas. On its southern wintering grounds, it may gather into flocks with other sparrows. It nests on the ground, building a cup of plant fibers lined with grass hidden in dense vegetation, in which it lays 3-6 creamy-white eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated for 12-14 days by the female and the young leave the nest some 7-12 days later. The adult is a large sparrow with a long tail and a stout bill. It is streaked brown above and on the throat and breast, with a pale, narrow eye ring, a dark ear patch outlined in white below and behind, a creamy-white belly and white outer tail feathers. It also has a chestnut spot on the shoulder, but this may not be evident. The Vesper Sparrow eats seeds, insects and grain.

BREWER'S SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Spizella breweri</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Mountain meadows, sagebrush flats, open desert
Identification:	Medium-size sparrow with longish tail. Brown crown with black streaks, grayish-white eyebrow, whitish eye ring, brown cheek with darker outline, dark mustache mark, whitish breast and belly, gray nape, brown back with darker streaking, brown rump, two light wing bars
Similar species:	Chipping Sparrow has gray rump. Clay-colored Sparrow has central crown stripe, more contrasting head pattern and lacks whitish eye ring

Brewer's Sparrow is common in the west in summer but has two distinct breeding areas - one on the sagebrush flats of the west and the other in the Canadian Rockies. It is thought that the Canadian birds may be a separate species. It nests on the ground in sagebrush or just above in a cactus, building a cup of grass in which it lays 3-5 bluish, brown-spotted eggs that are incubated for up to 2 weeks. The adult is a medium-size sparrow and has a longish, slightly notched tail. It has a brown crown with black streaks, a grayish-white eyebrow, distinct whitish eye ring, brown cheeks with a darker outline, a dark mustache mark, and a whitish breast and belly. Its nape is gray and its back brown with darker streaking, and it has a brown rump and two light wing bars. Brewer's Sparrow can survive long periods without water and eats insects and seeds.





FIELD SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open brushy woodland, overgrown fields
Identification:	Large sparrow with long tail. Gray face, reddish crown, whitish eye ring, pale rust eyeline, bright pink bill, brown streaked back, plain gray-brown rump, two white wing bars, buffy breast and sides, grayish-white belly, pink legs
Similar species:	American Tree Sparrow larger and has central breast spot. Chipping Sparrow has dark eyeline and darker bill

Fairly common on open, brushy ground, the Field Sparrow spreads across most of the east in summer, but retreats back to the southeast in winter. It nests on or up to 10 feet above the ground in a bush or low tree, building a cup of grass and leaves, in which it lays 3-5 pale blue-green eggs, very densely speckled with red-brown. These are incubated for 12-17 days by the female and the young leave the nest to start fending for themselves after around 7-9 days. The adult is a large sparrow with a long, slightly notched tail, a stout, bright pink bill and pink legs. It has a gray face with a reddish crown, a distinct whitish eye ring and a pale rust eyeline, a brown streaked back with a plain gray-brown rump, two white wing bars, a buffy breast and sides, and a grayish-white belly. The Field Sparrow mainly feeds on seeds, but it will also take insects and spiders.

SAVANNAH SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Marsh, fields, grassy beaches
Identification:	Neat sparrow with small crest, short notched tail and pointed wings. Coloring variable, but generally streaked brown above, heavily striped beneath, white belly, light central crown stripe and eyebrow, pale pink legs
Similar species:	Vesper Sparrow has pale eye ring, lacks bold eyebrow and white central crown stripe

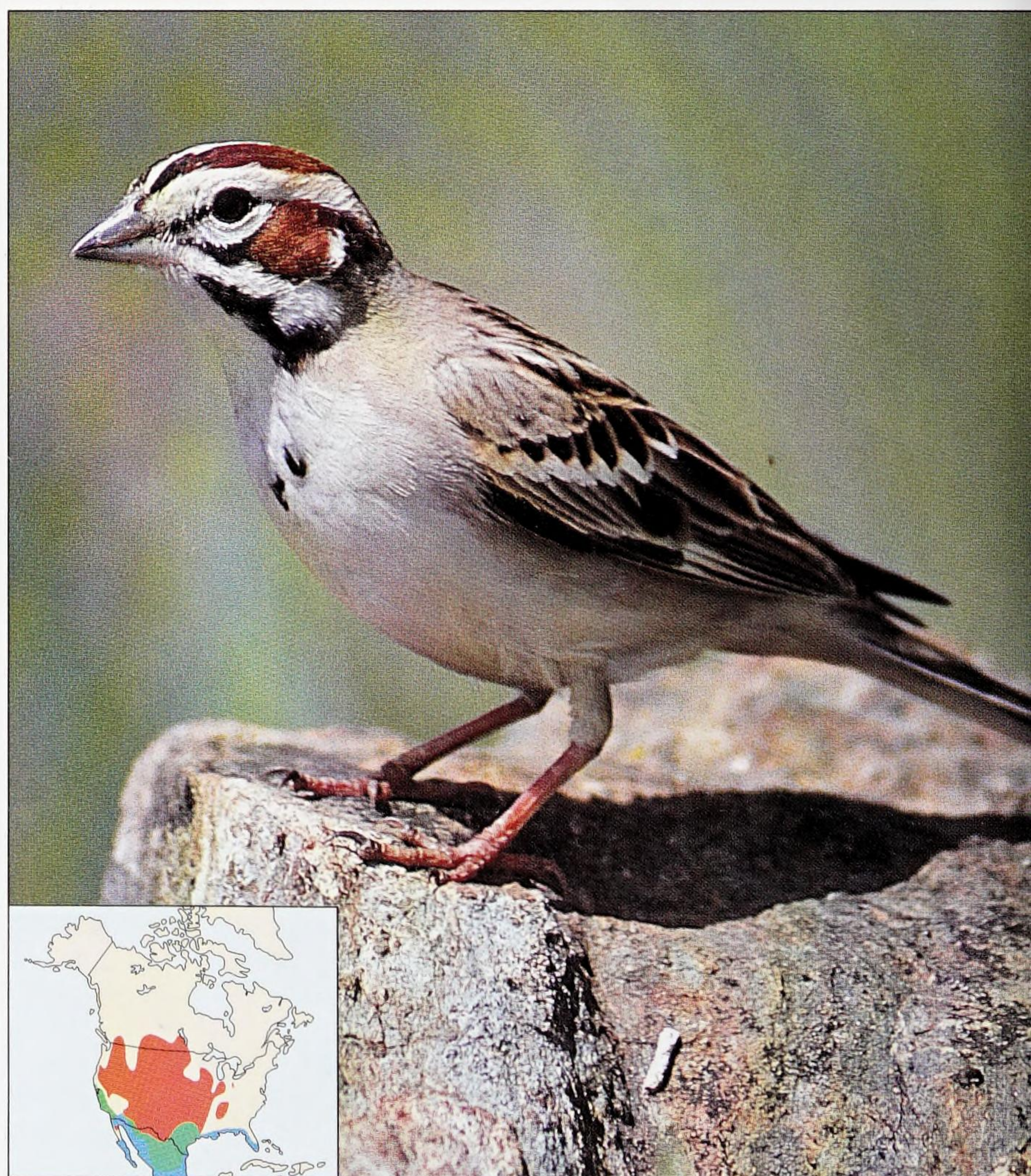
A common and widespread bird across much of North America, the Savannah Sparrow can often be seen perching in the open on marshes, fields or grassy beaches. It nests on the ground, building a cup of grass and plant stems hidden in vegetation, in which it lays 4-6 whitish eggs spotted with brown and purple. These are incubated for 10-12 days by both birds, and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves around 2 weeks later. The adult is a neat and compact bird with a small crest, short, notched tail and rather pointed wings. Its coloring is very variable, ranging from very dark and heavily streaked to light brownish or rufous, depending on its range, but it is generally streaked brown above, heavily striped beneath, with a white belly, a light central crown stripe and eyebrow, and pale pink legs. The Savannah Sparrow usually lives in loose flocks and eats seeds and insects.



LARK SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>
Length:	6½ inches
Habitat:	Prairie edges, open brushy woodland, farmland
Identification:	Slender sparrow with long, rounded tail and pointed wings. Chestnut ear patches and crown stripes outlined in black, white cheek and central crown stripe, black mustache mark, streaked brown above, plain buff beneath with central black spot on breast, black tail with white sides and corners
Similar species:	Head pattern is distinctive

Common in the west in summer, but rarer in the east, the Lark Sparrow is found on open ground near brush for cover and can often be spotted in small flocks. It nests on or near the ground, building a cup of grass lined with fibers and hair, hidden in grass or in a low bush, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs spotted with brown and black. These are incubated for 10-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves around 10 days later. The adult is a slender bird with a long, rounded tail and rather pointed wings. It has chestnut ear patches and crown stripes outlined in black, a white cheek and central crown stripe and a black mustache mark, and is streaked brown above and plain buff beneath with a central black spot on the breast and a black tail with white sides and corners. The juvenile is duller and streaked below. A very sociable bird, the Lark Sparrow flocks together when feeding, even in the nesting period. It can often be seen perching in the open and eats seeds and insects.



FOX SPARROW *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed woodland undergrowth, chaparral
Identification:	Large, stocky, round-headed sparrow with heavy bill. Coloring very variable, either gray, dark brown or streaked rufous above, heavy triangular spots beneath arranged in stripes and merging on breast, white belly, reddish rump and tail
Similar species:	Hermit Thrush has white eye ring, lacks heavy streaking below

The Fox Sparrow is one of the largest sparrows in North America and is fairly common in many areas, but it lives in dense thickets and so it may be difficult to spot. It nests on or just above the ground, building a neat, solid cup of plant fibers lined with feathers hidden in a thicket or low in a bush. It lays 4 or 5 pale green eggs speckled with brown, which are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female bird. The adult is a large, stocky sparrow with a round head and a heavy bill. Its coloring is very variable, either gray, dark brown or streaked rufous above, with heavy triangular spots beneath arranged in stripes and merging on the breast, a white belly, and a reddish rump and tail. Gray-headed birds are found in the west, dark brown in the northwest and rufous in the east. The juvenile of each is similar to the adult, but duller. The Fox Sparrow scratches at the ground under bushes with both feet, hunting for seeds and insects.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Dry brushy fields, palmetto stands, pine woods
Identification:	Large, long-tailed sparrow. Gray above heavily streaked chestnut-brown, buffy-gray cheeks, long dark eyeline, breast and sides buff or gray, belly whitish
Similar species:	Closely resembles Botteri's Sparrow, but no overlap in range

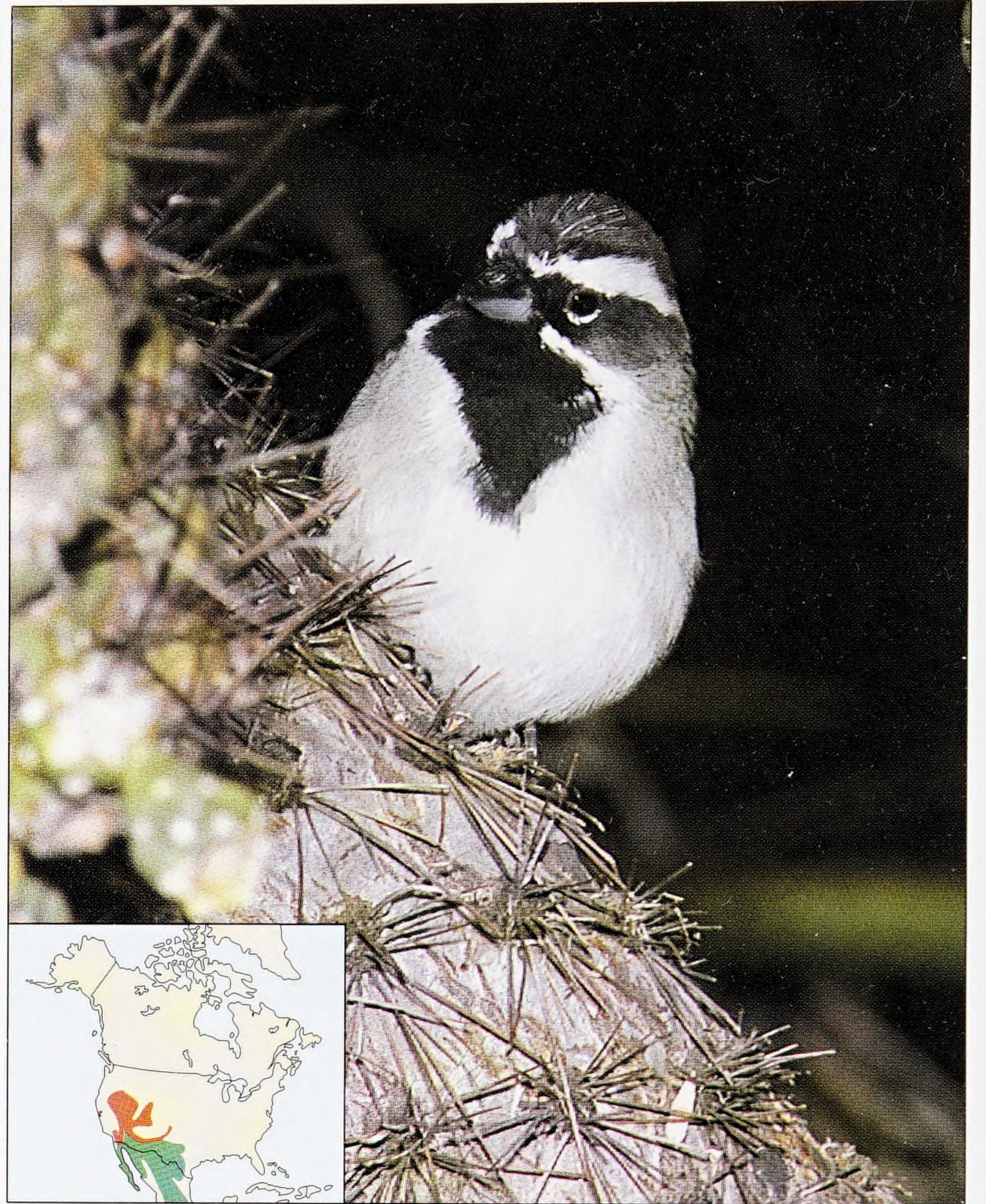
Rather uncommon and declining still further in some areas of its range, Bachman's Sparrow is a bird of dry, open woodland that tends to stay fairly close to the ground in long grass. Except when the male perches in the open to sing in the breeding season, it may be difficult to see. It nests on the ground, building a woven cup of grass and stems well-concealed under a tuft of grass, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female and the young birds are ready to start fending for themselves some 2 weeks later. The adult is a large sparrow with a long, rounded tail, a flattish forehead and a sturdy bill. It is gray above, heavily streaked with chestnut-brown, and has buffy-gray cheeks, a long dark eyeline, buff or gray breast and sides, and a whitish belly. Birds in the west are brighter colored and more rufous overall, while those in the southeast are grayer and darker. The juvenile has more streaking, which lingers into the second summer, and a distinct pale eye ring. Bachman's Sparrow eats insects, spiders and seeds.



BLACK-THROATED SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Rocky desert slopes
Identification:	Medium-size sparrow with long tail. Gray above, black face and bib, white eyebrow, mustache mark and spot below eye, whitish below, black tail with white sides and corners
Similar species:	Sage Sparrow lacks black bib and white on tail, has central dark breast spot, streaked sides

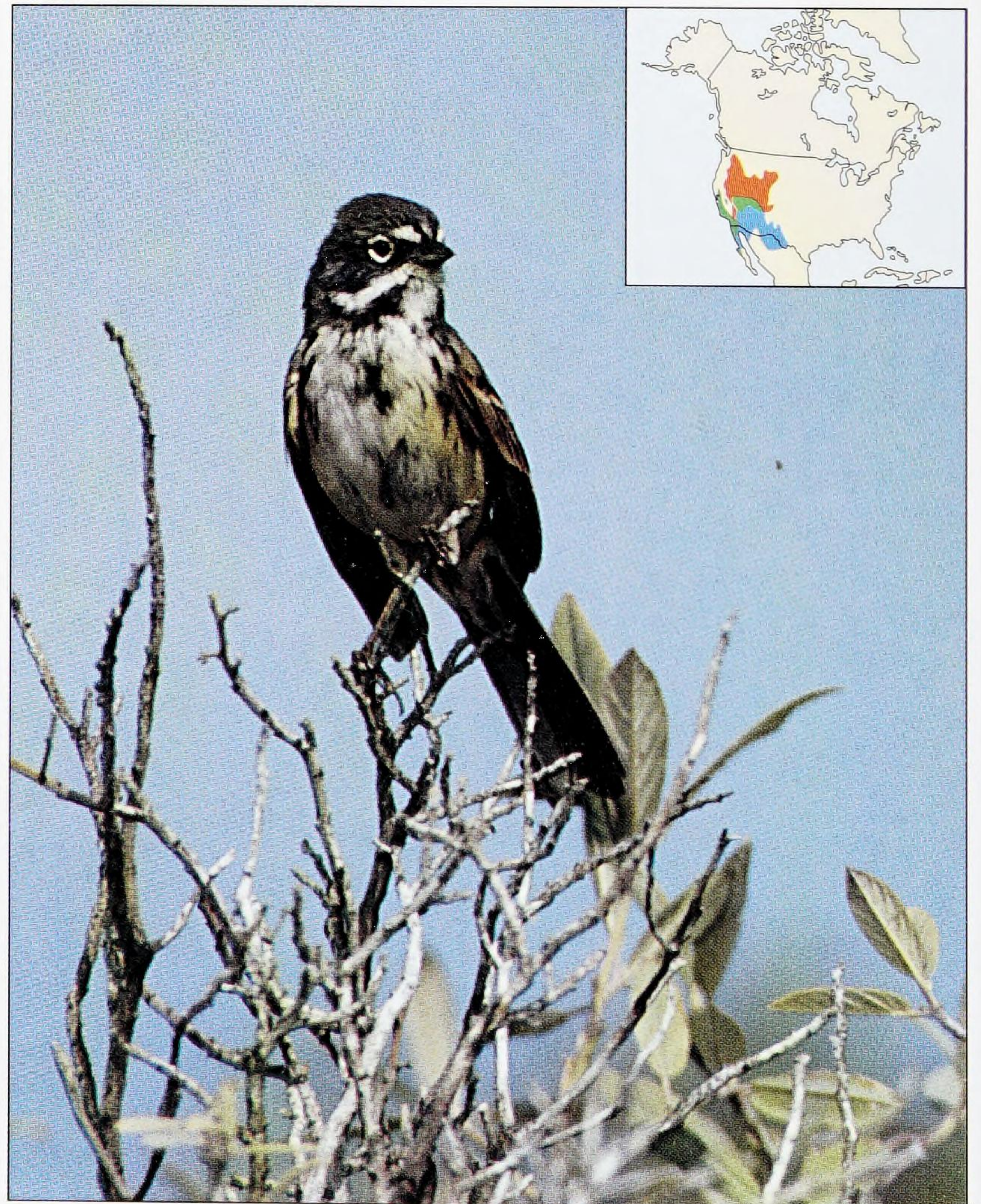
A desert bird, the Black-throated Sparrow can tolerate extremes of heat and drought and is common in the desert areas of the southwest, spreading north across Nevada, much of Utah and parts of Colorado in summer. It nests just above the ground, building a loosely-constructed cup of plant fibers lined with animal hair, well-hidden in a low bush or cholla cactus, in which it lays 3 or 4 bluish-white eggs. The adult is medium-size with a long tail and a small, stout bill. It is gray above and whitish below, with a black face and bib, a white eyebrow, mustache mark and spot below the eye, and a black tail with white sides and corners. The juvenile lacks the black bib and has a finely streaked breast. The Black-throated Sparrow is sometimes known locally as the "desert sparrow". It forages on the ground in pairs or small groups and eats seeds, plants and insects - which usually also give it all the moisture it needs.



SAGE SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Sagebrush & saltbush flats, mountain chaparral
Identification:	Large sparrow with long tail. Gray above, white beneath with central dark spot on breast, streaked back and sides, dark gray head and cheek, white eye ring and spot before eye, black mustache mark, black tail
Similar species:	Black-throated Sparrow has black bib, no streaking and white on tail

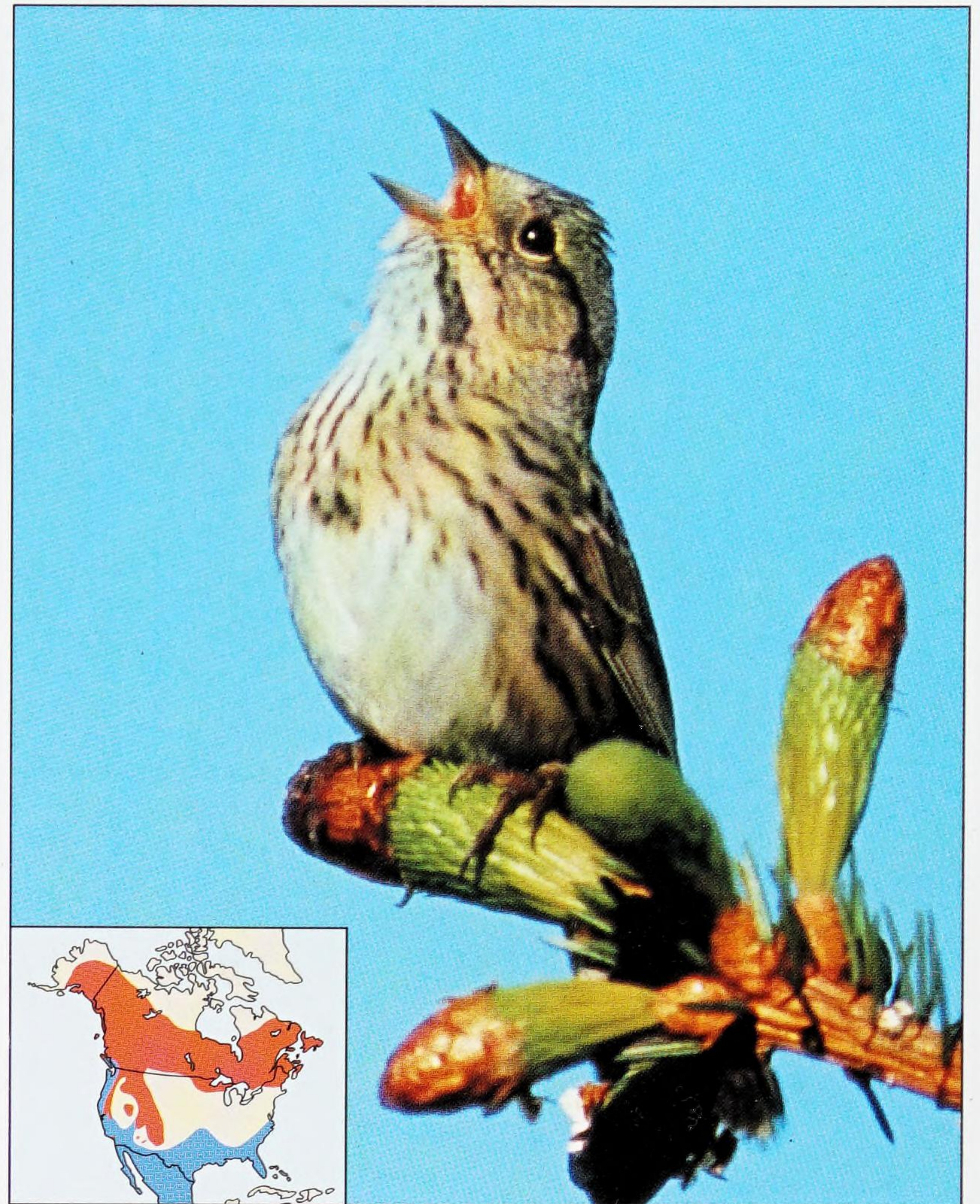
The Sage Sparrow prefers barren country, particularly sagebrush flats and coastal chaparral. It nests around 4 feet above the ground, building a loosely-constructed cup of sagebrush lined with animal fur, well-hidden in sagebrush or low scrub, in which it lays 3 or 4 bluish-white eggs speckled with brown and black. These are incubated for just under 2 weeks, and there is often a second brood. The adult is a large sparrow with a long tail and a small, stout bill. It is gray above and white beneath with central dark spot on the breast, and has streaked back and sides, a dark gray head and cheek, a white eye ring and spot before the eye, a black mustache mark, and a plain black tail. The juvenile is browner with a white throat and fine dark streaking on a buffy breast and belly. Birds on the Pacific Coast are generally darker with more contrast in pattern. The Sage Sparrow often runs on the ground with its tail held upwards, but wags and dips its tail when perched. It eats both seeds and insects.



LINCOLN'S SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Brushy bogs, mountain meadows, dense thickets
Identification:	Stocky sparrow with round head, short tail and small pointed bill. Streaked brown-gray above, buffy breast finely striped with brown, white belly, brown cheeks and crown, gray central crown stripe and eyebrow, white eye ring, buffy mustache mark, pinkish legs
Similar species:	Song Sparrow has heavier streaking below and central breast spot

Although it is common in brushy bogs and mountain meadows in the west in summer, Lincoln's Sparrow is much rarer in the east. It spends the winter along much of the Pacific coast and across the south, where it prefers to live in thickets. In the breeding season it nests on the ground, building a cup of dry grass well-hidden in vegetation, in which it lays 4 or 5 greenish-white eggs heavily spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks, and the young are ready to leave the nest around 3 weeks later - there is sometimes a further brood in the season. The adult is a stocky bird with a rounded head, a short tail and a rather small, pointed bill. It is streaked brown-gray above, with a buffy breast finely striped with brown, a white belly, brown cheeks and crown, a gray central crown stripe and eyebrow, a white eye ring, buffy mustache mark, and pinkish legs. Lincoln's Sparrow is a wary and secretive bird, which is usually only spotted when singing. It eats seeds, grain and insects.

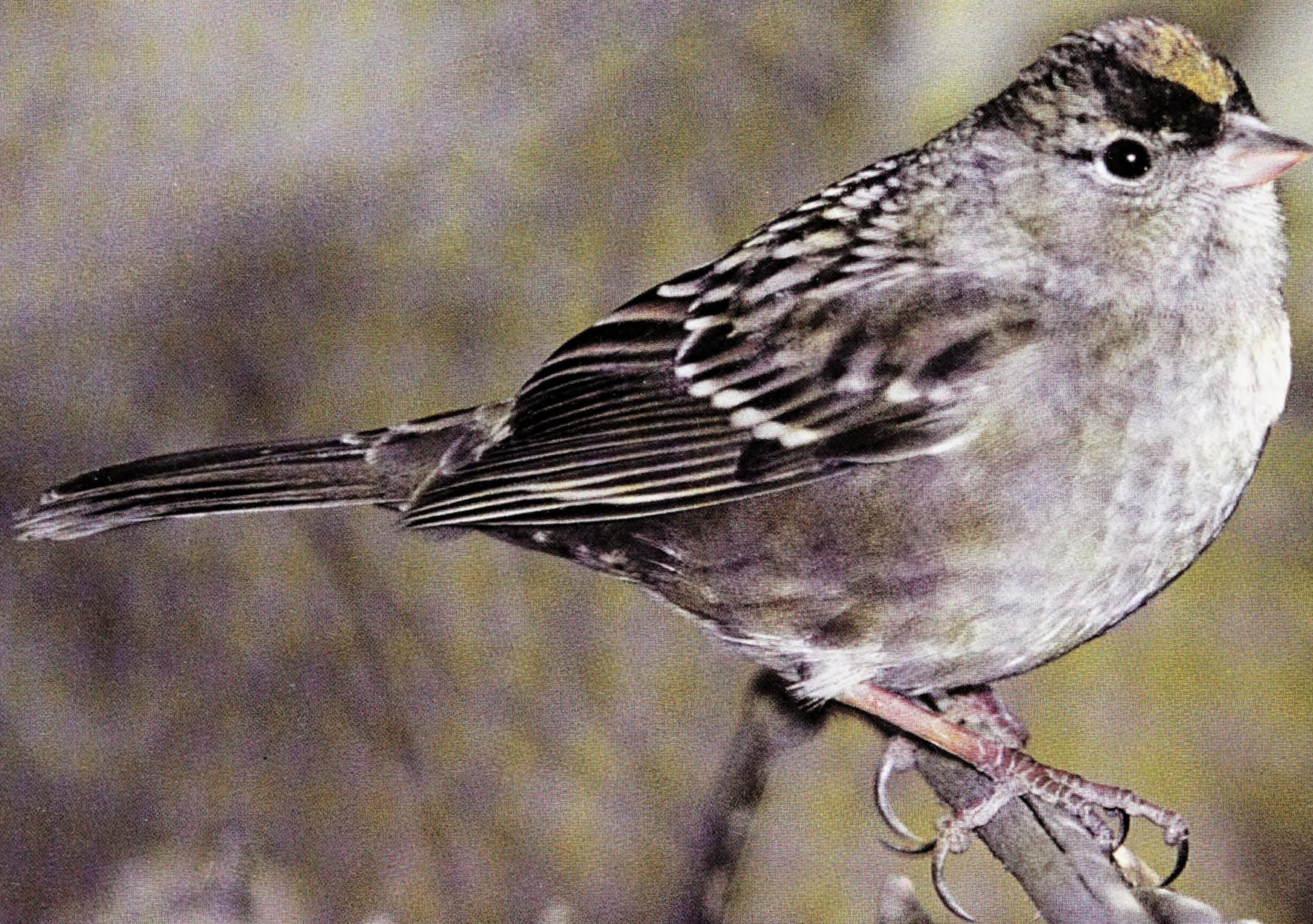


SONG SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches
Habitat:	Dense riverside thickets, parks, backyards
Identification:	Stocky sparrow with round head, long tail and stout bill. Coloring variable, but generally streaked red-brown above, heavily striped beneath with distinct central breast spot, white belly, light gray central crown stripe and eyebrow, pinkish legs
Similar species:	Lincoln's Sparrow more buffy with narrow streaks beneath and no central breast spot. Savannah Sparrow lacks central breast spot and has shorter tail

The Song Sparrow is the most widespread sparrow in North America, but it hides in dense cover - although it also lives in suburban gardens and parks, where it can become quite tame. It nests on or just above the ground, building a cup of grass and plant stems well-hidden in vegetation, in which it lays 3-6 greenish-white eggs heavily spotted with brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female bird, and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves around 10 days later - there are often several further broods in a season. The adult is a stocky bird with a rounded head, a long tail and a rather short, stout bill. Its coloring is very variable geographically, but it is generally streaked red-brown above, heavily striped beneath with a distinct central breast spot, a white belly, a light gray central crown stripe and eyebrow, and pinkish legs. The Song Sparrow usually lives in family groups or pairs and is rarely seen in flocks. It eats seeds, grain, berries and insects.





GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

Scientific name: *Zonotrichia atricapilla*

Length: 7 inches

Habitat: Tundra, dense woodland, brush

Identification: Large, heavy sparrow with long tail and two-tone bill. Brown streaked darker above, gold crown with wide black stripe on each side, gray cheek, gray-brown breast, sides and flanks, whitish throat and belly, two narrow white wing bars. Winter plumage duller

Similar species: White-crowned Sparrow has pink or yellow bill, lacks gold crown

Fairly common in the tundra bogs of the northeast in summer, the Golden-crowned Sparrow winters in the west in dense woodland and undergrowth. In the breeding season it nests on or near the ground, weaving a neat cup of grass, stems and leaves well-hidden in vegetation or in a bush, in which it lays 4 or 5 bluish, brown-speckled eggs. The adult is a large, heavy sparrow with a long tail and a bill that is dark above and pale beneath. It is brown, streaked with darker brown above, and has a gold crown with a wide black stripe on each side, a gray cheek, gray-brown breast, sides and flanks, a whitish throat and belly, and two narrow white wing bars. The winter plumage is duller with less distinct and extensive black stripes on the crown. The Golden-crowned Sparrow often joins flocks of other sparrows in winter, but forages under bushes rather than out in the open. It eats seeds, buds, flowers and insects and will visit feeders in winter.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Woodland edges, grassland, thickets
Identification:	Large, heavy sparrow with long tail. Gray-brown streaked above, black and white striped crown, pink or yellow bill, white eyebrow, thin black line behind eye, gray cheek and breast, white throat and belly, two narrow white wing bars
Similar species:	White-throated Sparrow is browner with dark bill

Abundant in the west but uncommon in the east, the White-crowned Sparrow is seen in flocks at the edges of woodland and in hedges across the south in winter and spends the summer in the north and northwest. In the breeding season it nests on or high above the ground, weaving a neat cup of grass hidden in vegetation or in a tree, in which it lays 3-5 pale blue eggs spotted with red-brown. These are incubated by the female for 12-17 days, and the young are ready to leave the nest around 10-12 days later. The adult is a large, heavy sparrow with a long tail. It is gray-brown streaked above, with a black and white striped crown, a pink or yellow bill, a white eyebrow with a thin black line behind the eye, a gray cheek and breast, white throat and belly, and two narrow white wing bars. The juvenile has a brown and buff striped crown and streaked underparts. The White-crowned Sparrow eats seeds, grain and insects and often visits feeders in winter.

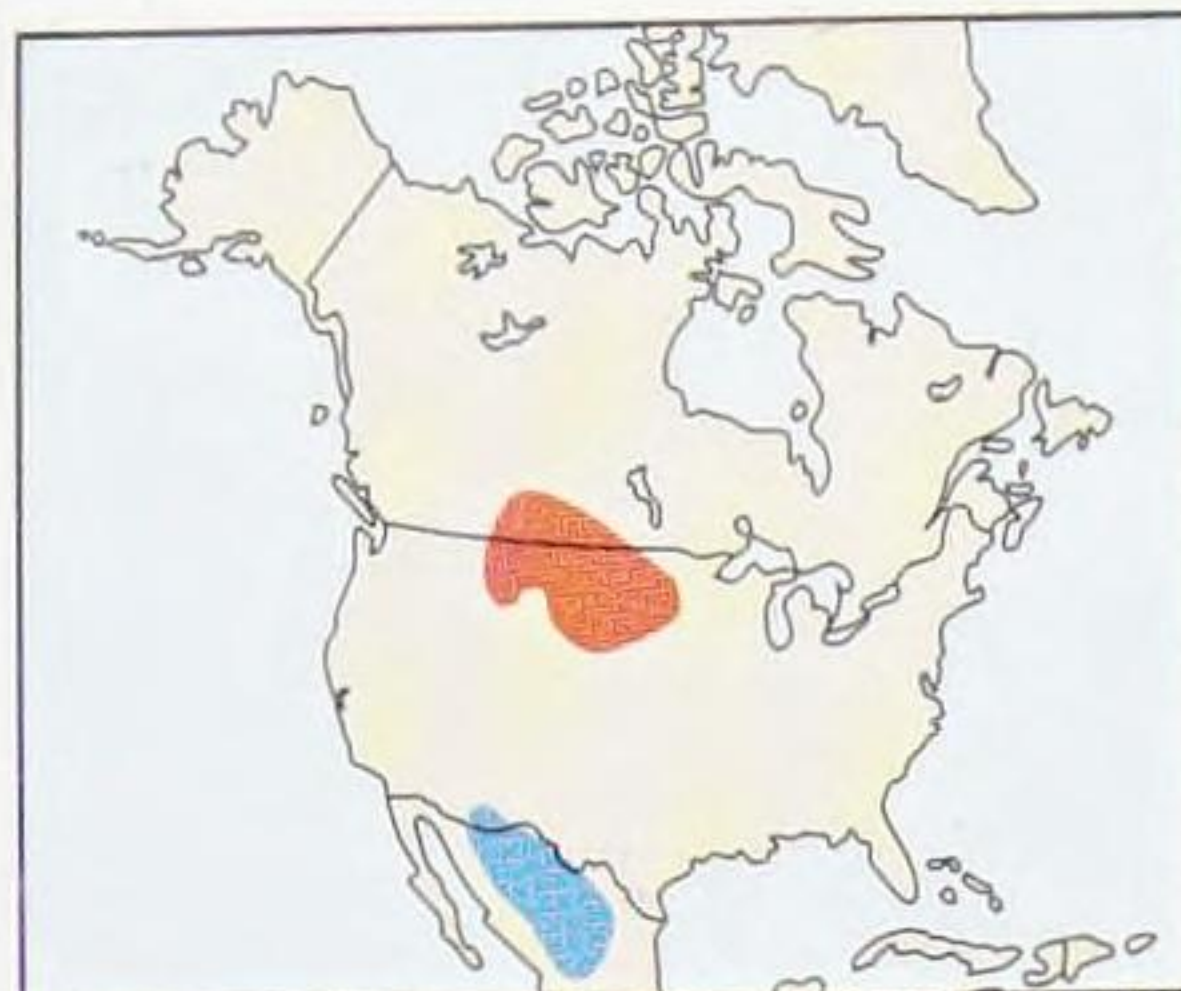


WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Woodland undergrowth, brush, backyards, parks
Identification:	Large, heavy sparrow with long tail. Chestnut-brown above, black and white striped crown, bright yellow spot behind dark bill, either white or tan eyebrow, gray cheek and breast, white throat, two narrow white wing bars
Similar species:	White-crowned Sparrow is grayer with pink or yellow bill

The White-throated Sparrow is commonly seen in flocks in woods, parks and gardens in the southeast in winter, but is rare in the west. It spends the summer in the cool forests of the north and northeast. In the breeding season it nests on the ground, weaving a cup of moss, grass, rootlets and bark strips, lined with fine grass and hidden in vegetation, in which it lays 3-5 greenish-white eggs heavily spotted with brown at the rounded end. These are incubated by the female for up to 2 weeks, and the young are ready to leave the nest around 10-12 days later. The adult is a large, heavy sparrow with a long tail. It is chestnut-brown above, with a black and white striped crown, a bright yellow spot behind a dark bill, either a white or tan eyebrow, a gray cheek and breast, white throat, and two narrow white wing bars. The juvenile is brown and buff, with fine streaking on the breast. The White-throated Sparrow is usually found on the ground, where it forages for seeds, berries and insects - often in flocks with juncos and other sparrows.





BAIRD'S SPARROW *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Marsh, fields, grassy beaches
Identification:	Medium-size, flat-headed sparrow with a short tail. Streaked or scaled brown above, mustard-yellow tinge to head, whitish beneath with necklace of dark streaks on chest
Similar species:	Savannah Sparrow has a bold eyebrow and pale central crown stripe

An uncommon and elusive bird, Baird's Sparrow is hard to find both in winter and during migration, although it may be spotted singing during the breeding season. It nests on the ground on dry prairie, building a cup of grass and plant stems well hidden in tall vegetation, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs blotched with brown and lilac. These are incubated for 11-14 days by the female bird alone, and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves just over a week later. The adult is a medium-size bird with a rather flat head and a short tail. It is streaked or scaled brown above, with a mustard-colored tinge to the head that may appear as a broad ochre-yellow stripe across the crown, and whitish beneath with a necklace of dark streaks across the chest. Baird's Sparrow is extremely reluctant to fly and tends to either run away through the grass like a mouse when disturbed, or fly up very briefly and stay low. It eats seeds, spiders and insects.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Pasture, dry grassland, palmetto scrub
Identification:	Long-billed sparrow with flat head, short tail and pointed wings. Dark brown crown with buffy central stripe, white eye ring, chestnut and black striped back, plain buffy breast, whitish belly
Similar species:	Le Conte's Sparrow has buffy-orange eyebrow and pale gray ear patch. Savannah Sparrow may be similar in some color variations but usually has heavy striping beneath

Shy and secretive, the Grasshopper Sparrow usually lives on its own and hides in tall, dense grass so it is easily overlooked. It is declining in the east, due to destruction of its habitat. It nests on the ground, building a neat cup of grass lined with soft fibers and hair, concealed under a clump of tall grass, in which it lays 4 or 5 creamy-white eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated for 10-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to fend for themselves around 9-10 days later. The adult is a small sparrow with a large, flat head, a relatively long bill, a short tail and rather pointed wings. It has a dark brown crown with a buffy central stripe, a white eye ring, a chestnut and black striped back, a plain buffy breast and a whitish belly. The juvenile has pale streaks on the belly. The Grasshopper Sparrow eats seeds, grain, spiders and insects.



SEASIDE SPARROW *(above)*

Scientific name:	<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Grassy tidal marshes
Identification:	Stocky, rounded sparrow with short spiky tail and long bill. Coloring variable but usually dark olive-gray above, yellow patch above and in front of eye, white throat, whitish mustache mark, buffy-white underparts streaked dusky
Similar species:	Coloring and long bill distinctive

Only found in tidal saltmarsh grass along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, the Seaside Sparrow is common within its range, which does not extend very far inland. The darkest color variation became extinct in 1987, due to destruction of its habitat. It nests on the ground, weaving a cup of grass and rushes concealed and often attached to marsh grass stems, in which it lays 3-5 greenish-white eggs spotted with brown. These are incubated for 10-12 days by the female, and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves around 9-10 days later. The adult is a stocky, rounded sparrow with a short spiky tail and a long, stout, very pointed bill. Its coloring is very variable within its range, but it is usually dark olive-gray above, with a yellow patch above and in front of the eye, a white throat, a whitish mustache mark and buffy-white underparts streaked dusky. Juveniles are duller and rather browner than the adult. The Seaside Sparrow eats small crustaceans, snails, insects, spiders and seeds.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW

Scientific name:	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Wet fields, shallow marsh edges
Identification:	Small-billed sparrow with short spiky tail. Gray cheek, orange-buff eyebrow and stripe below cheek, black crown with white central stripe, gray nape with fine pink stripes, chestnut and black striped back, buffy breast with sharp black streaks on sides, white belly
Similar species:	Grasshopper Sparrow lacks buffy-orange eyebrow and pale gray ear patch

A shy and very secretive bird, Le Conte's Sparrow hides in tall, dense grass in wet fields and shallow marshes and is common but easily overlooked. If disturbed it will fly up briefly, but does not go high and soon drops back down into the grass. It nests on the ground, building a small cup of grass well-concealed amidst tall grass or sedges, in which it lays 4 or 5 white eggs speckled with brown that are incubated for 12-14 days by the female. The adult is a small sparrow with a rather small bill and a short spiky tail. It has a gray cheek, with an orange-buff stripe below and eyebrow above, a black crown with a white central stripe, a gray nape with fine pink stripes, a chestnut and black striped back, a buffy breast with sharp black streaks on the sides and a white belly. The juvenile is paler and has heavy streaks on the breast. Le Conte's Sparrow eats seeds and insects.



CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR

Scientific name:	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Damp upland prairie, dense tall grass
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed ground-dwelling bird with short rounded wings and small bill. Breeding male has chestnut nape, buffy-brown above, black below with white lower belly, black cap and eyeline, white cheek, buffy-white throat and ear stripe. In flight shows black triangle on white tail. Female and juvenile gray-brown
Similar species:	Female similar to female McCown's Longspur, but darker

The range of the Chestnut-collared Longspur overlaps that of McCown's, but it prefers taller grass and is more common. The male is easier to spot, as it flies up singing, or perches in the open on a tall stalk. The Chestnut-collared nests on the ground, lining a scrape next to a stone or bush with grass and laying 3-5 greenish-white eggs with brown-black speckles, which hatch within 11-14 days. The adult is a stocky, rather short-tailed bird with short, rounded wings and a small bill. The breeding male has a chestnut nape, and is buffy-brown above and black below, with a white lower belly, a black cap and eyeline, a white cheek, and a buffy-white throat and ear stripe. The female and juvenile are gray-brown and rather sparrow-like, but in flight all birds show a distinctive black triangle on a white tail. The Chestnut-collared Longspur forages on the ground and eats insects and seeds.

LAPLAND LONGSPUR

Scientific name:	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>
Length:	6½ inches
Habitat:	Arctic tundra, grassy and plowed fields
Identification:	Slender ground-dwelling bird with long pointed wings and stout bill. Breeding male has black head, throat and bib, chestnut nape, white eyebrow and border between nape and bib, brown streaking above, white belly with black streaks on flanks, dark tail with white outer feathers. Winter male and female have brown striped head, indistinct dark breast band, buffy flanks, chestnut wash at nape
Similar species:	Summer plumage distinctive, winter plumage rather like other longspurs or sparrows

In summer, the Lapland Longspur lives on Arctic tundra, but it winters on the Great Plains and is common in surrounding areas, often in large flocks with Horned Larks and Snow Buntings. In its breeding area, it nests on the ground in the shelter of a small bush, lining a depression with feathers, and laying 4-7 pale olive-green or buffy-brown eggs with brown speckles and blotches. The adult is a slender, quite long-tailed bird with long, pointed wings and a stout bill. The breeding male has a black head, throat and bib, a chestnut nape, a white eyebrow and border between the nape and bib, brown streaking above, a white belly with black streaks on the flanks, and a dark tail with white outer feathers. The winter male (right) and female have a brown striped head, an indistinct dark breast band, buffy flanks, and a chestnut wash at the nape. The Lapland Longspur forages on the ground in flocks, running or walking rather than hopping, and eats insects and seeds.





McCOWN'S LONGSPUR

Scientific name:	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	Short-grass plains, dry lake beds, plowed fields
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed ground-dwelling bird with short thick bill. Streaked brown and buffy above, whitish below, gray ear patch, white throat and eyebrow, rusty wing bar. In flight shows inverted black T on white tail. Breeding male grayer with black crown and mustache mark, dark crescent on central breast
Similar species:	Female similar to female Chestnut-collared Longspur, but paler

Although its range is fairly limited and has shrunk considerably over the last century, McCown's Longspur can be quite common

locally. It spends the winter on open ground with short grass and plowed fields, often with flocks of Horned Larks, but in the summer it prefers dry open plains. It nests on the ground, lining a depression in the bare earth with grass and laying 3 or 4 white or pale green eggs with brown and purple streaks and spots. The female incubates the eggs for 11-14 days and the young birds are ready to begin fending for themselves around 12 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky, rather short-tailed bird with a short, thick bill. It is streaked brown and buffy above and whitish below, with a gray ear patch, a white throat and eyebrow, and a rusty wing bar which may not be very evident. In flight it shows a distinctive inverted black T on a white tail. The breeding male is grayer, with a black crown and mustache mark, and a dark crescent patch across the central breast. McCown's Longspur eats insects and the seeds of weeds.

YELLOW-EYED JUNCO

Scientific name:	<i>Junco phaeonotus</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and pine-oak mountain slopes
Identification:	Slender ground-dwelling bird with long tail. Gray head, sides and flanks, rust-red on back and wings, pale throat, two-tone bill, whitish belly, dark tail with white outer feathers
Similar species:	Female "Oregon", "Gray-headed" and "Red-backed" Dark-eyed Junco have less red on back and dark eyes

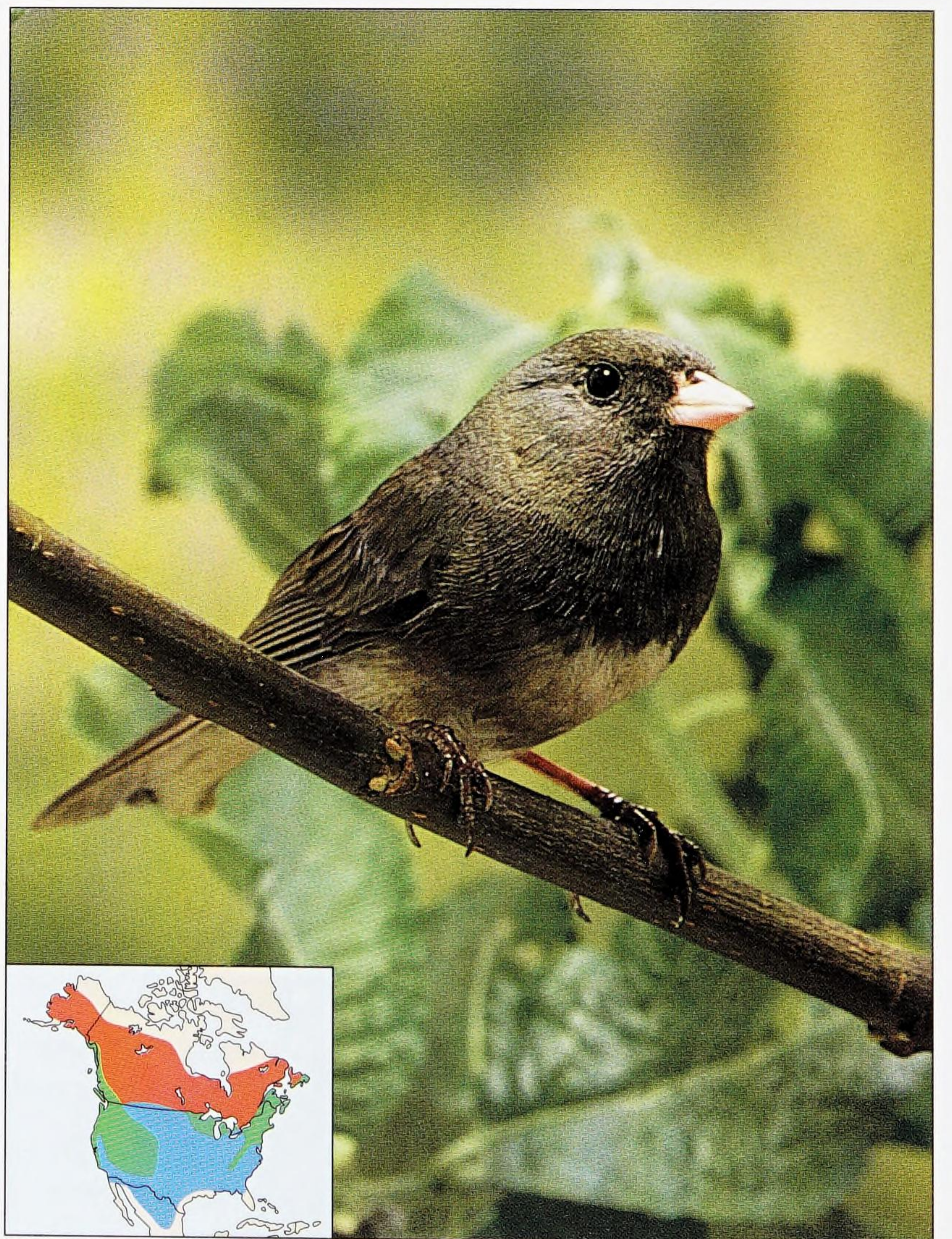
Only found in the far south of North America and extending down into Mexico, the Yellow-eyed Junco lives in coniferous and pine-oak forests. It nests on the ground, building a compact saucer of rootlets and fine grass lined with horsehair, situated under a fallen log or protected by vegetation. It lays 3 or 4 blue-white eggs spotted with brown, which are incubated for around 12 days by the female bird; the young birds are ready to leave the nest about 2 weeks later. The adult is a slender bird with a relatively long tail. It has a gray head, sides and flanks, rust-red on back and wings, a pale throat, a dark bill with a pale lower mandible, a whitish belly, and a dark tail with white outer feathers. The Yellow-eyed Junco forages on the ground, moving around slowly and deliberately and walking rather than hopping. It eats seeds, insects and berries.



DARK-EYED JUNCO

Scientific name:	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous and mixed woodland, thickets
Identification:	Slender ground-dwelling bird with long tail. Distinct color variations geographically, all have white belly, dark tail with white outer feathers
Similar species:	Female "Oregon" can look like "Pink-sided". "White-winged" paler than "Slate-colored", has two white wing bars. "Gray-headed" distinguished from female "Oregon" and "Pink-sided" by gray sides and flanks. "Red-backed" similar to "Gray-headed" but has paler throat, darker bill. Yellow-eyed Junco has more red on back and yellow eyes

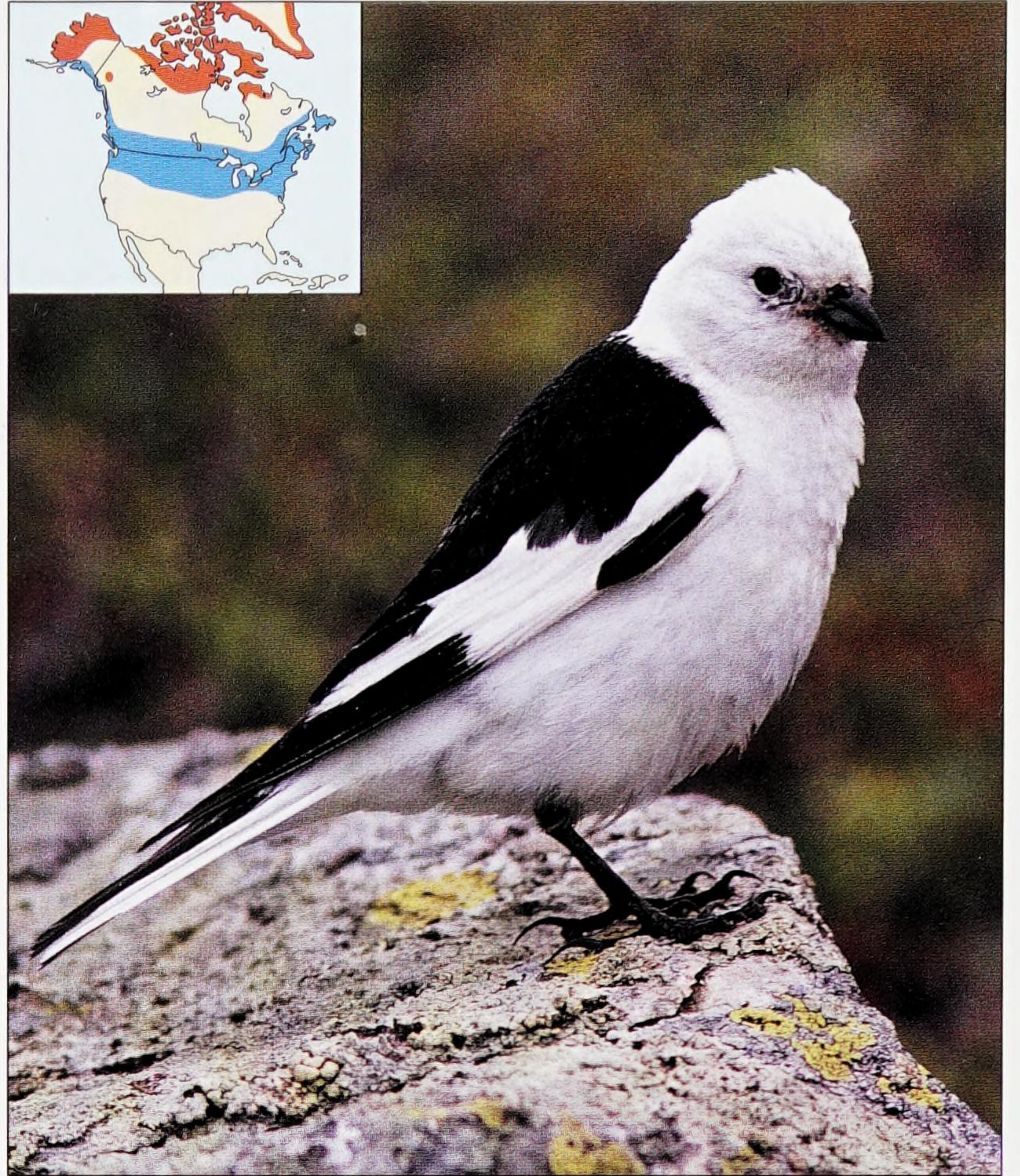
The Dark-eyed Junco has at least six different color variations, which tend to have different summer ranges but which may flock together in winter. The "Slate-colored" in the east has a dark gray head, back and sides; the female and juvenile are slightly browner. The "Oregon" is common in the west, the male has a solid blackish hood, chestnut-brown back and sides; the female is paler with a gray hood. The "Pink-sided" summers in the northern Rockies and has a pale blue-gray hood, pinky-cinnamon flanks and a brown back. The "White-winged" breeds in South Dakota and has a pale gray head, back and sides, two white wing bars and more white in tail. "Gray-headed" breeds in the central Rockies and has pale gray hood, sides and flanks, reddish patch on back. The "Red-backed" lives in northern Arizona and New Mexico and has gray head, sides and flanks, reddish back, pale throat and dark bill with pink lower mandible. The Dark-eyed Junco nests on the ground building a compact cup of plant material to hold 3-6 blue-white eggs spotted with brown. It eats seeds, insects and berries.



SNOW BUNTING

Scientific name:	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Tundra, rocky shores, sand dunes, beaches, barren fields
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird, with short tail and pointed wings. Black central tail feathers and wing tips, variable black patch at shoulder. Breeding male white with black back, winter male white with buffy crown, ear patch, collar and back. Female white with rusty-tan crown, ear patch, collar and back
Similar species:	Plumage distinctive

The Snow Bunting is fairly common across central North America in winter, and spends the summer on Arctic tundra, but is also often seen in various open habitats during migration. It nests in a crevice or a depression in the ground among rocks, lining the hollow with moss and feathers to hold 4-6 blue-white eggs, very heavily spotted with brown and lilac. These are incubated by the female for about 2 weeks and the young are ready to fend for themselves around 11-18 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird, with a short tail and pointed wings and has black central tail feathers and wing tips and a variable black patch at the shoulder. The breeding male is white with a black back, the winter male is white with a buffy crown, ear patch, collar and back. The female is white with a rusty-tan crown, ear patch, collar and back. The Snow Bunting is often seen in large flocks along with Horned Larks and longspurs. It eats insects, seeds and spiders.



LARK BUNTING

Scientific name:	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Dry plains, prairie, sagebrush
Identification:	Large, stocky ground-dwelling bird, with short tail and short rounded wings. Breeding male black with large white wing patch. Female and winter male streaked brown-buff above, white streaked brown below, white wing patch, white-tipped tail
Similar species:	Plumage of breeding male distinctive, otherwise rather sparrow-like

Very common in the central states just east of the Rockies in summer, the Lark Bunting winters in large flocks across the south and down into Mexico. The distinctive plumage of the male is very conspicuous in summer but the female may be harder to spot. It nests in a deep scrape in the ground hidden in vegetation, lining the hollow with loose grass to hold 4 or 5 light blue-green eggs, sometimes lightly spotted with brown. The adult is a rather large and stocky bird, with a short tail and short, rounded wings. The breeding male is black overall, with a large white wing patch. The female and winter male are streaked brown-buff above, white streaked with brown below, with a white wing patch that may not be visible on the resting bird. All plumages show a white-tipped tail. The Lark Bunting eats insects, seeds and grain.





PAINTED BUNTING

Scientific name:	<i>Passerina ciris</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Low thickets, brushy streams, woodland edges
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird, with short tail and rounded bill. Male has indigo-blue head, bright green back, bright red underparts and rump, dusky wing and tail. Female lime green above, lemony-green below
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

Despite its bright and distinctive coloring, the Painted Bunting can be difficult to spot since it hides in foliage even when singing. The male was once a popular caged bird, but now its capture is illegal. It nests not far above the ground, building a woven cup of grass and plant fibers lined with fine grass and hair, low in a low tree, or in a thick bush. It lays 3 or 4 gray-white eggs, spotted with brown, which are incubated by the female for about 11-13 days; the young are ready to leave the nest and begin fending for themselves around 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird, with a short tail and a rounded bill. The male has an indigo-blue head, a bright green back, bright red underparts and rump, and dusky wings and tail. The female is lime green above and a lemony yellow-green below. The juvenile resembles the female. The Painted Bunting sings all year round, except when it molts in late summer. It forages on the ground, looking for insects, spiders and seeds.



VARIED BUNTING

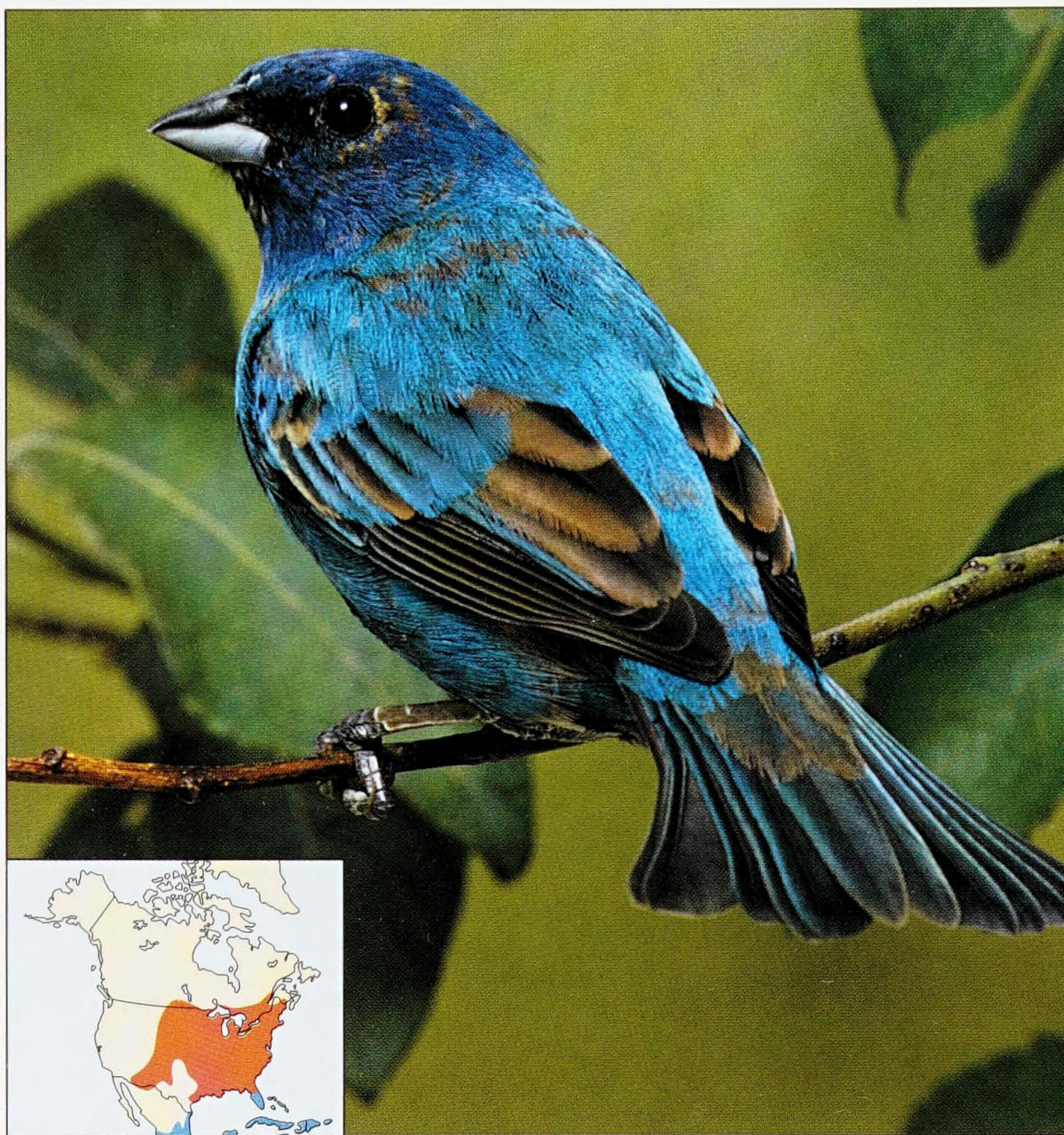
Scientific name:	<i>Passerina versicolor</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Thorny thickets, canyons, near water
Identification:	Stocky ground-dwelling bird, with short tail and rounded bill. Breeding male purple-red with bright red patch on nape, browner in fall. Female plain light brown
Similar species:	Female Varied Bunting resembles female Indigo but lacks streaking on breast

Locally common within its limited range, the Varied Bunting prefers thorny thickets and canyons near water and is seen in the far south along the Mexican border in summer, spreading down into Mexico. It nests up to 10 feet above the ground, building a woven cup of grass, stems and plant fibers in a low tree, thick bush or tangle of vines to hold 3-5 plain pale blue-white eggs. These are incubated by the female for about 11-13 days and the young are ready to leave the nest and begin fending for themselves around 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird, with a short tail and a rounded bill. The breeding male is purple-red with a bright red patch on the nape, but sometimes appears black at a distance. The fall male is browner and the female is plain light brown. The Varied Bunting forages on the ground, looking for insects and seeds.

INDIGO BUNTING

- Scientific name:** *Passerina cyanea*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Woodland clearings, farmland, brushy pasture
Identification: Stocky ground-dwelling bird, with short tail and stout bill. Breeding male indigo blue overall. Female and fall male brown with fine streaks on chest and blue tint to tail
Similar species: Male Blue Grosbeak is bigger with bigger bill and has wide cinnamon wing bars. Female Indigo lacks obvious wing bars of female Lazuli

Common in the east in woodland clearings and on farmland in summer, the Indigo Bunting is rarely seen in the west although part of its range overlaps with that of the Lazuli Bunting, and the two sometimes interbreed. It nests up to 15 feet above the ground, building a neatly-woven cup of grass, leaves and bark strips in a tree or bush to hold 3-5 plain pale blue-white eggs. These are incubated by the female for about 11-14 days and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves around 9-11 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird, with a short tail and a stout bill. The breeding male is indigo blue overall. The female and fall male are brown with fine streaks on the chest and a blue tint to the tail. The Indigo Bunting mainly forages on the ground in flocks, looking for insects and seeds, but it also takes berries in fall.



LAZULI BUNTING

- Scientific name:** *Passerina amoena*
Length: 5½ inches
Habitat: Deciduous and mixed woodland, chaparral, brush near water
Identification: Stocky ground-dwelling bird, with short tail and stout bill. Breeding male has bright turquoise hood, back and rump, cinnamon breast and sides, white belly, dark wings with two white wing bars. Female is gray-brown above, warm buffy below with paler throat and belly, blue tint to wing tips, rump and tail, two buffy wing bars
Similar species: Bluebirds have thinner bills, lack wing bars. Female has more obvious wing bars than female Indigo

Wintering in Mexico, but fairly common across the west in summer, the Lazuli Bunting prefers deciduous woodland and brushy areas near water. Part of its range overlaps with that of the Indigo Bunting, and the two species sometimes interbreed. It nests up to 10 feet above the ground, building a neatly-woven cup of grass in a tree, bush or vine to hold 3 or 4 plain pale blue eggs. These are incubated by the female for about 10-12 days and the young are ready to begin fending for themselves around 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird, with a short tail and a stout bill. The breeding male has a bright turquoise hood, back and rump, cinnamon breast and sides, a white belly, and dark wings with two white wing bars. The winter male is duller and more brownish. The female is gray-brown above and warm buffy below with a paler throat and belly, a blue tint to the wing tips, rump and tail, and two buffy wing bars. The Lazuli Bunting mainly forages on the ground for insects, caterpillars, beetles and seeds, but sometimes flies up to catch its prey in the air.

PYRRHULOXIA

Scientific name:	<i>Cardinalis sinuatus</i>
Length:	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Thorny brush, mesquite thicket, desert, dry woodland edges
Identification:	Crested, long-tailed bird with large, rounded stubby bill. Male gray, with crimson crest, rosy-red stripe down middle of breast and belly, dark red flashes in wings and tail. Female buffy with red spot in front of eye and red on crest, wings and tail. Bill yellow in summer, pale gray-yellow in winter
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive. Female Northern Cardinal has longer red bill

Fairly common across the south near the Mexican border, the Pyrrhuloxia prefers thorny brush, mesquite thickets and other dry habitats. It nests up to 15 feet above the ground, building a compact cup of twigs, bark and plant fibers in mesquite or a thorny bush, in which it lays 2-4 grayish-white eggs with brown spotting. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks, while the male provides food and helps feed the nestlings after they have hatched. The adult is a crested bird with a long tail and a large, rounded stubby bill. The male (*right*) is gray, with a crimson crest, a rosy-red stripe down the middle of the breast and belly, and dark red flashes in wings and tail. The female is buffy with a red spot in front of the eye and red on the crest, wings and tail. The bill of both birds is yellow in summer, and pale gray-yellow in winter. The Pyrrhuloxia feeds on seeds and insects and is particularly welcome in cotton fields, where it eats cotton worms and weevils.



DICKCISSEL

Scientific name:	<i>Spiza americana</i>
Length:	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open meadows, prairie
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed open-country bird with long bill and pointed wings. Gray-brown above, buffy-white beneath, with yellowish eyebrow, chestnut shoulder patch. Breeding male has black bib, white chin, bright yellow breast. Female has some yellow on breast. Winter male has less distinct bib
Similar species:	Female similar to House Sparrow, but has yellow on breast and chestnut shoulder

The range of the Dickcissel varies quite a bit in different years, but it is generally fairly common and abundant in the midwest in summer and migrates in dense flocks to South America for the winter. In its breeding area it nests on the ground or up to 15 feet above, building a cup of grass and plant fibers concealed in vegetation or in a bush or tree. It lays 2-5 plain pale blue eggs, which are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest some 9 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird with a short tail, a relatively long bill and pointed wings. It is gray-brown above and buffy-white beneath, with a yellowish eyebrow and chestnut shoulder patch. The breeding male has a black bib, a white chin, and a bright yellow breast; the winter male has a less distinct bib and the female (*right*) has some yellow on the breast. The Dickcissel feeds on seeds, grain and insects and will come to backyard bird feeders in fall.





NORTHERN CARDINAL

Scientific name:	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Length:	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Forest, swamps, thickets, parks, suburban backyards
Identification:	Crested, long-tailed woodland bird with large triangular bill. Male bright red, with black face and throat and red bill. Female olive-buff with reddish crest, wings and tail, juvenile reddish-buff
Similar species:	Coloring of male distinctive. Pyrrhuloxia has shorter, dull yellow bill

The Northern Cardinal is common both in the east and the southwest in a wide variety of habitats, even city parks and

backyards as long as there is sufficient cover. The Cardinal not only returns to the same breeding area, pairs mate for life. It nests up to 12 feet above the ground, building a loosely-woven cup of twigs and plant fibers in a shrub or thicket, in which it lays 3 or 4 pale green eggs with brown-lilac spots. These are incubated by the female for just under 2 weeks, while the male provides food and helps feed the nestlings after they have hatched. The adult is a crested bird with a long tail and a large triangular bill. The male (*above*) is bright red, with a black face and throat and a red bill. The female is olive-buff with a reddish crest, wings and tail, and the juvenile is reddish-buff with a black bill. The Northern Cardinal feeds mainly on the ground, out in the open. It eats fruits, seeds and insects and regularly comes to bird feeders in winter, particularly for sunflower seeds.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK

Scientific name:	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Length:	8 inches
Habitat:	Woods along streams
Identification:	Stocky, large-headed woodland bird with very large triangular bill. Breeding male has black head and back, rose-red breast, white underparts and rump, white wing bars and spots, black tail with white outer feathers, rose-red wing linings in flight. Winter plumage is browner. Female dark brown above, whitish streaked brown beneath, white eyebrow, yellow wing linings
Similar species:	Female almost identical to female Black-headed Grosbeak, but has heavier streaking beneath

Common in woods alongside streams in the east in summer, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is rarely seen in the west even during migration. It nests high above the ground, building a flimsy-looking shallow cup of twigs, plant fibers and grass in a shrub or tree, which holds 3-5 pale blue eggs, spotted with brown. The adult is stocky and large-headed with a big, triangular bill. The breeding male has a black head and back, a rose-red breast, white underparts and rump, white wing bars and spots, a black tail with white outer feathers and rose-red wing linings in flight; its winter plumage is browner. The female is dark brown above, whitish streaked brown beneath, with a white eyebrow and yellow wing linings. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak stays high in the trees, but sometimes forages on the ground or comes to bird feeders. It eats fruit, seeds and insects.



BLUE GROSBEAK

Scientific name:	<i>Guiraca caerulea</i>
Length:	6 ³ / ₄ inches
Habitat:	Overgrown fields, riversides, woodland edges
Identification:	Stocky, large-headed open-country bird with very large triangular bill. Breeding male dark blue with two cinnamon wing bars. Female tan above, lighter buff beneath, faint blue tint on wings and rump, pale cinnamon wing bars
Similar species:	Male Indigo Bunting is smaller with smaller bill and lacks cinnamon wing bars

The Blue Grosbeak is found across the south in summer, in brushy fields, woodland edges and roadsides, and it is fairly common in most areas. It nests up to 15 feet above the ground, building a loose cup of twigs, plant fibers and stems in a low shrub or tree, which holds 3 or 4 plain pale blue eggs. These are incubated by the female for 10-12 days, with the young leaving the nest just under 2 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a stocky, large-headed bird with a very large, triangular bill. The breeding male is dark blue with two cinnamon wing bars, but in winter is brownish. The female (right) is tan above, lighter buff beneath, with a faint blue tint on wings and rump, and pale cinnamon wing bars. The Blue Grosbeak gathers in small flocks after breeding, sometimes along with finches and sparrows, to forage for fruit, seeds, spiders and insects - particularly grasshoppers in open fields.





BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Scientific name: *Pheucticus melanocephalus*

Length: 8¼ inches

Habitat: Open woodland, forest edges

Identification: Stocky, large-headed woodland bird with very large triangular bill. Breeding male has black head and back, rusty-orange collar, breast and rump, yellow belly and wing linings, white wing bars and spots, black tail with white outer feathers. Winter plumage is browner. Female brown above, buff finely streaked brown beneath, white eyebrow, yellow wing linings

Similar species: Female almost identical to female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but has lighter streaking beneath

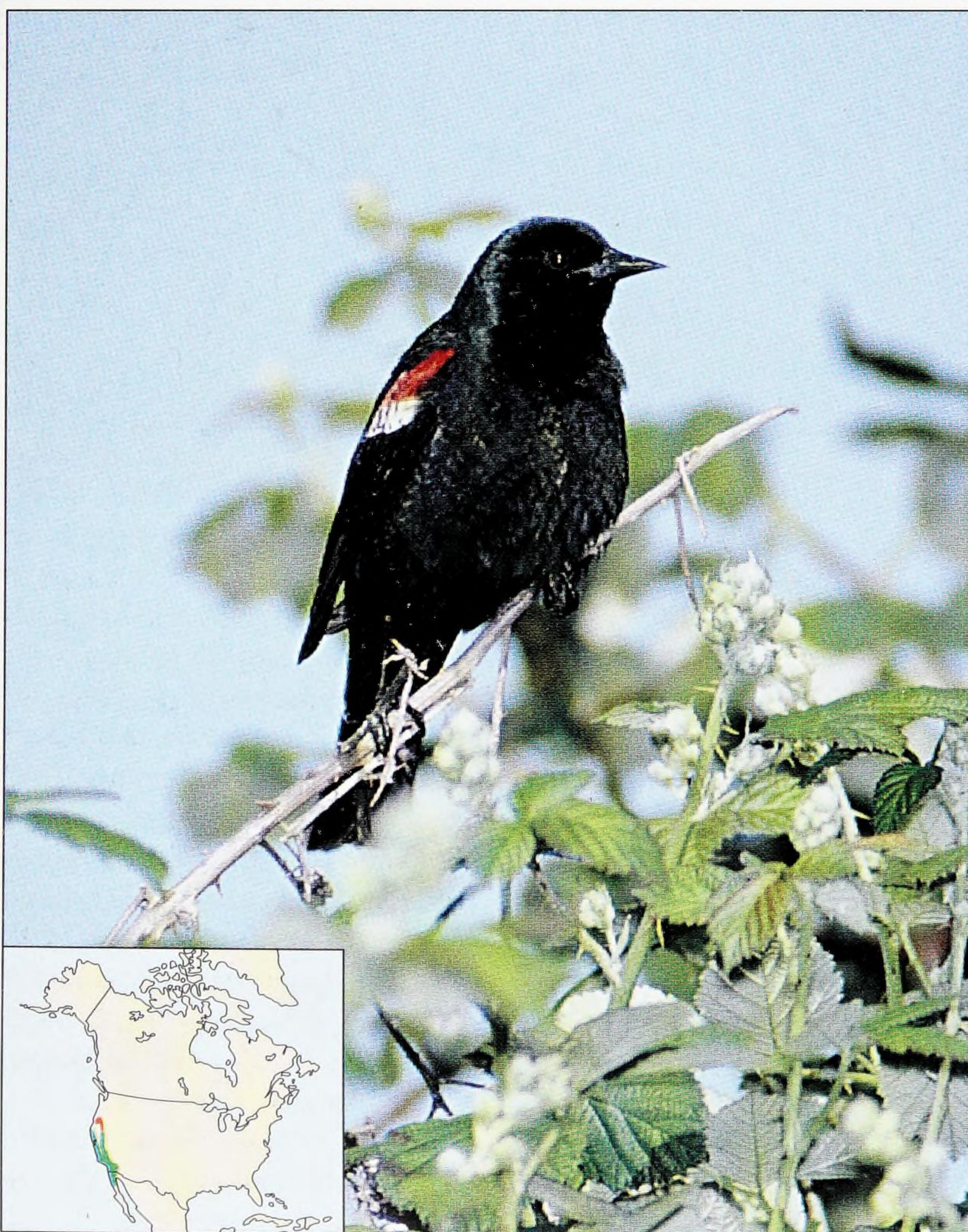
Very common across the west of North America in summer, but rarely seen in the east, the Black-headed Grosbeak prefers oak

woods and dense woodland along rivers. It will sometimes breed with the Rose-breasted where their territories meet, creating hybrids. Unlike some other species, it is the female bird that stakes out a territory and defends it. It nests quite high above the ground, building a loose, shallow and rather flimsy cup of twigs, plant fibers and rootlets in the fork of a shrub or tree, which holds 3-5 pale blue eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated by both birds for just under 2 weeks, with the young leaving the nest 10-12 days after they have hatched. The adult is a stocky, large-headed bird with a very large, triangular bill. The breeding male has a black head and back, a rusty-orange collar, breast and rump, yellow belly and wing linings, white wing bars and spots, and a black tail with white outer feathers; its winter plumage is browner. The female is brown above, buff finely streaked brown beneath, with a white eyebrow and yellow wing linings. The Black-headed Grosbeak eats fruit, seeds and insects, and sometimes comes to bird feeders - particularly for sunflower seeds. Its large beak is perfectly adapted to crush large, hard seeds, which enables it to take some foods that the other birds are unable to tackle.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

- Scientific name:** *Agelaius phoeniceus*
Length: 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat: Freshwater marshes, open fields, farmland
Identification: Stocky marshland bird with fairly short tail and rounded wings. Male black with bright red and buff-yellow shoulder patch. Female and juvenile streaked brown with buff eyebrow
Similar species: Male Tricolored Blackbird has dark red and white wing patch, but is only found in a limited area. Female is browner than Tricolored female, with heavier streaking. Also resembles a sparrow, but has spike-shaped bill, darker belly

Widespread and abundant, the Red-winged Blackbird is found on all kinds of wet ground across most of North America. Except in the breeding season, it forms huge flocks - often with other blackbird species. It nests near the ground, weaving a sturdy cup of grass attached to marsh reeds or in a low bush, in which it lays 3-5 pale blue-green eggs, heavily marked with brown and black. These are incubated by the female for around 10-12 days and the young birds begin to fend for themselves just under 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a rather stocky bird with a fairly short tail and rounded wings. The male is black with a bright red and buff-yellow shoulder patch, the female and juvenile are streaked brown with a buff eyebrow. In central California, the males may have an all-red shoulder patch. Although the Red-winged Blackbird may be considered a pest for eating grain in spring, it catches large quantities of crop-damaging insects during the nesting season. It also eats seeds and spiders.



TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

- Scientific name:** *Agelaius tricolor*
Length: 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat: Marshland, rice fields, open country
Identification: Stocky marshland bird with fairly short tail and rather pointed wings. Male black with dark red and white shoulder patch. Female and juvenile gray-brown with faint streaking and pale eyebrow
Similar species: Red-winged Blackbird has bright red and buff-yellow wing patch. Female Red-winged is browner, with heavier streaking

Although it is found only in limited areas mainly in California, the Tricolored Blackbird is often seen in large numbers because it breeds in dense, crowded colonies and travels in flocks. It nests near the ground, weaving a sturdy cup of grass attached to reed stems or in a low vine, in which it lays 3 or 4 pale green eggs, heavily marked with brown scrawls. These are incubated by the female for around 10-12 days and the young birds leave the nest just under 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a rather stocky bird with a fairly short tail and rather pointed wings. The male is black with a dark red and broad white shoulder patch, the female and juvenile are gray-brown with faint streaking and a pale eyebrow. The Tricolored Blackbird feeds on grasshoppers in late summer and on insects and seeds in rice fields and marshes in winter. Its population is declining, due to the draining of its marshland habitat.



YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>
Length:	9½ inches
Habitat:	Freshwater marshes, reedy lakes, farmland
Identification:	Large, heavy-billed marshland bird with fairly short tail and rather broad wings. Male black with yellow head and breast, in flight shows white wing patch. Female brown-black with dusky-yellow chest, throat and face, plain wings. Juvenile dark with buffy-yellow head
Similar species:	Coloring distinctive

The Yellow-headed Blackbird is very distinctive on the marshland of the west and ranging east across the prairie states in summer, but

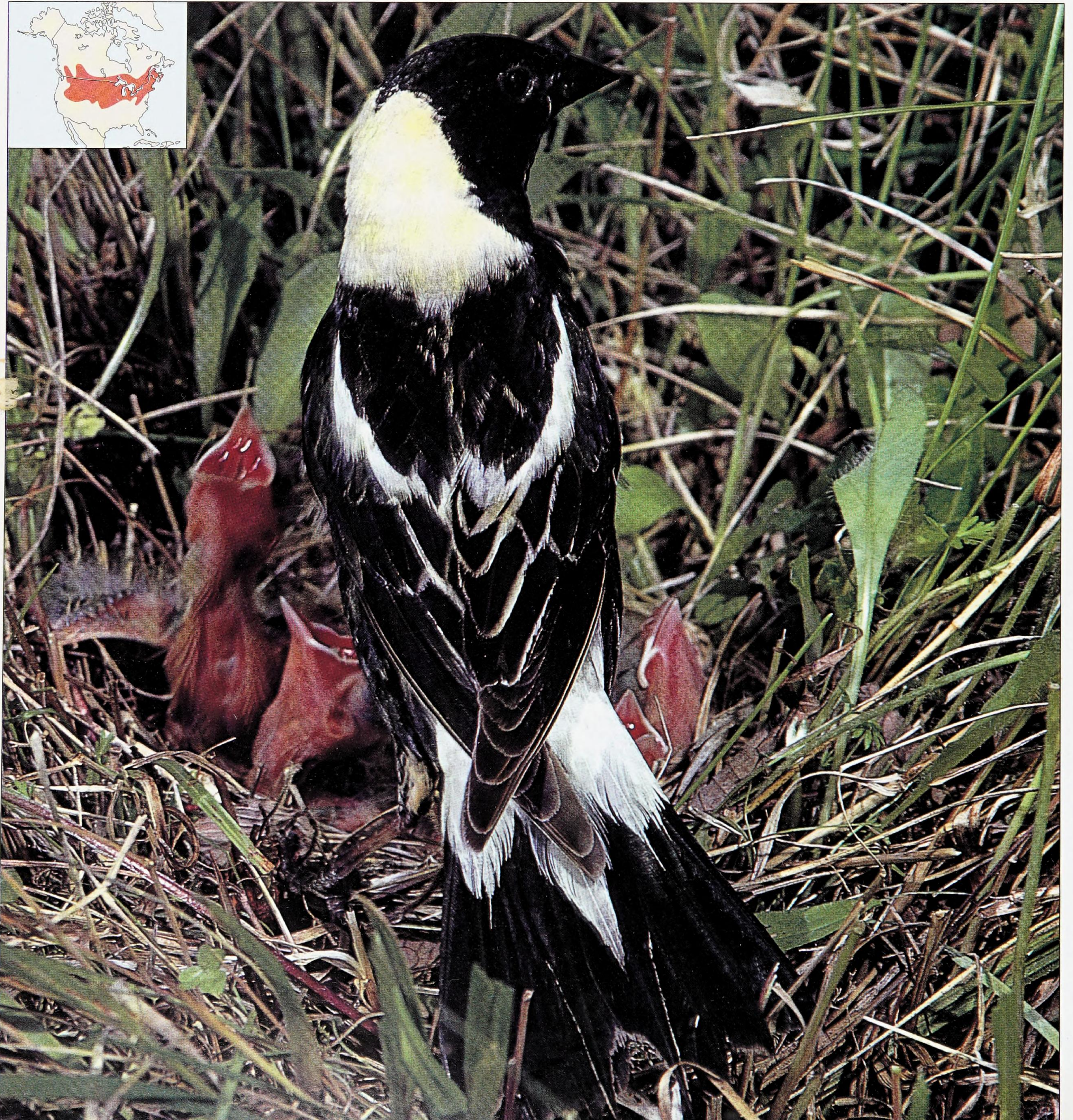
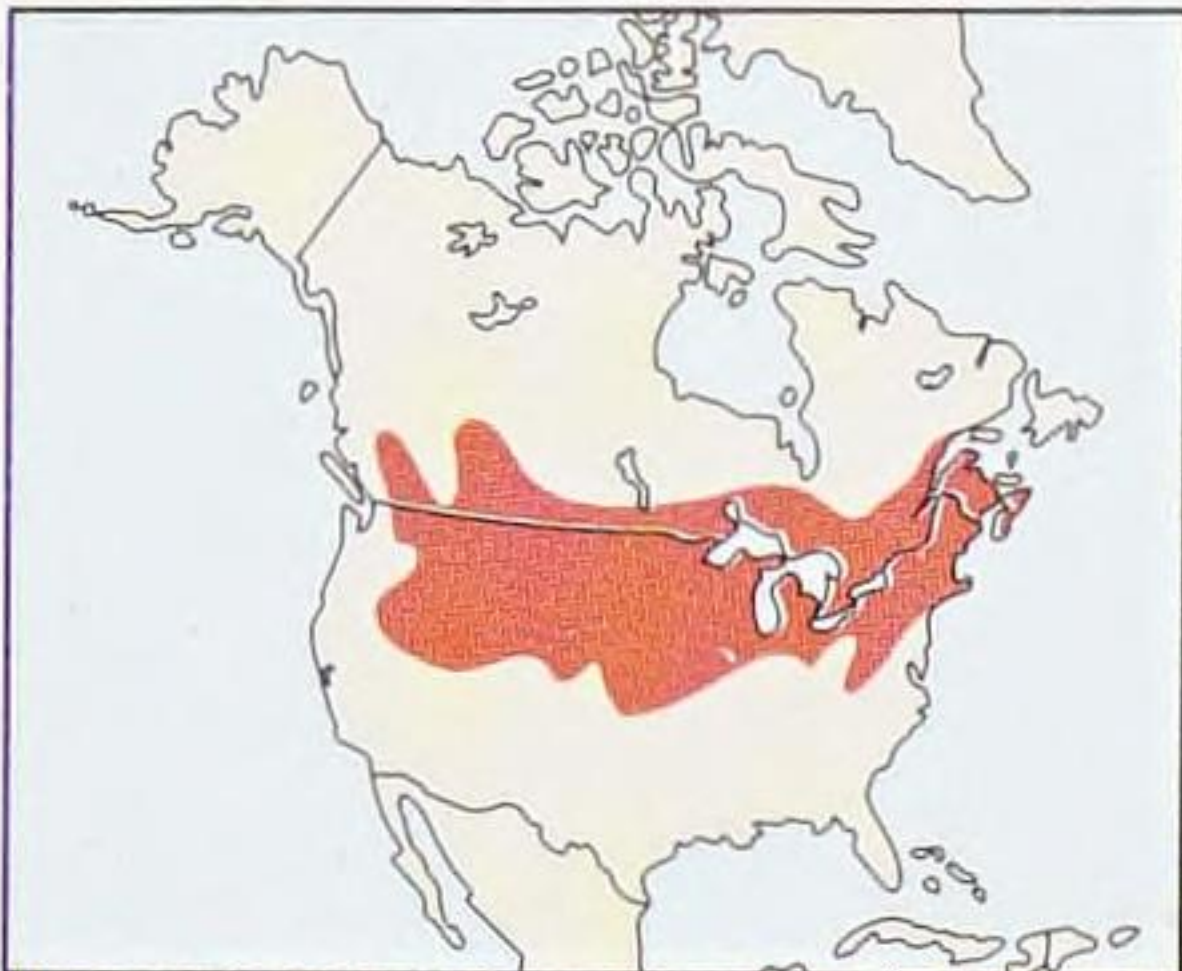
it retreats south to spend the winter along the border and down into Mexico. In the breeding season the male (*above*) puts on a courtship display to attract the female, fanning its tail and spreading its wings before making a deep and courtly bow. After pairing, it nests in large, crowded colonies in tall marsh plants over water - the water deters predators such as raccoons and skunks, while hawks and crows are mobbed by the colony until they retreat. Its nest is a sturdy basket of grass woven between several reed stalks, in which it lays 3-5 whitish eggs, speckled with brown. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the juveniles leave the nest 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a large bird with a fairly short tail and rather broad wings. The male is black with a yellow head and breast, and shows a white wing patch in flight. The female is brown-black with a dusky-yellow chest, throat and face, and plain wings. The juvenile is dark with a buffy-yellow head. The Yellow-headed Blackbird often mixes with other species of blackbird outside the breeding season. It feeds on insects, small snails, grain and seeds.

BOBOLINK

Scientific name:	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>
Length:	7 inches
Habitat:	Damp meadows, hayfields
Identification:	Slender open-country bird with pointed wings and pointed tail feathers. Breeding male mostly black with buffy nape, white patches on shoulder and rump. Female and winter male buffy with dark streaks on back, rump and sides, buff and black stripes on crown
Similar species:	Breeding male distinctive

In summer the Bobolink is fairly common in meadows and hayfields across the northern states and into Canada, but its

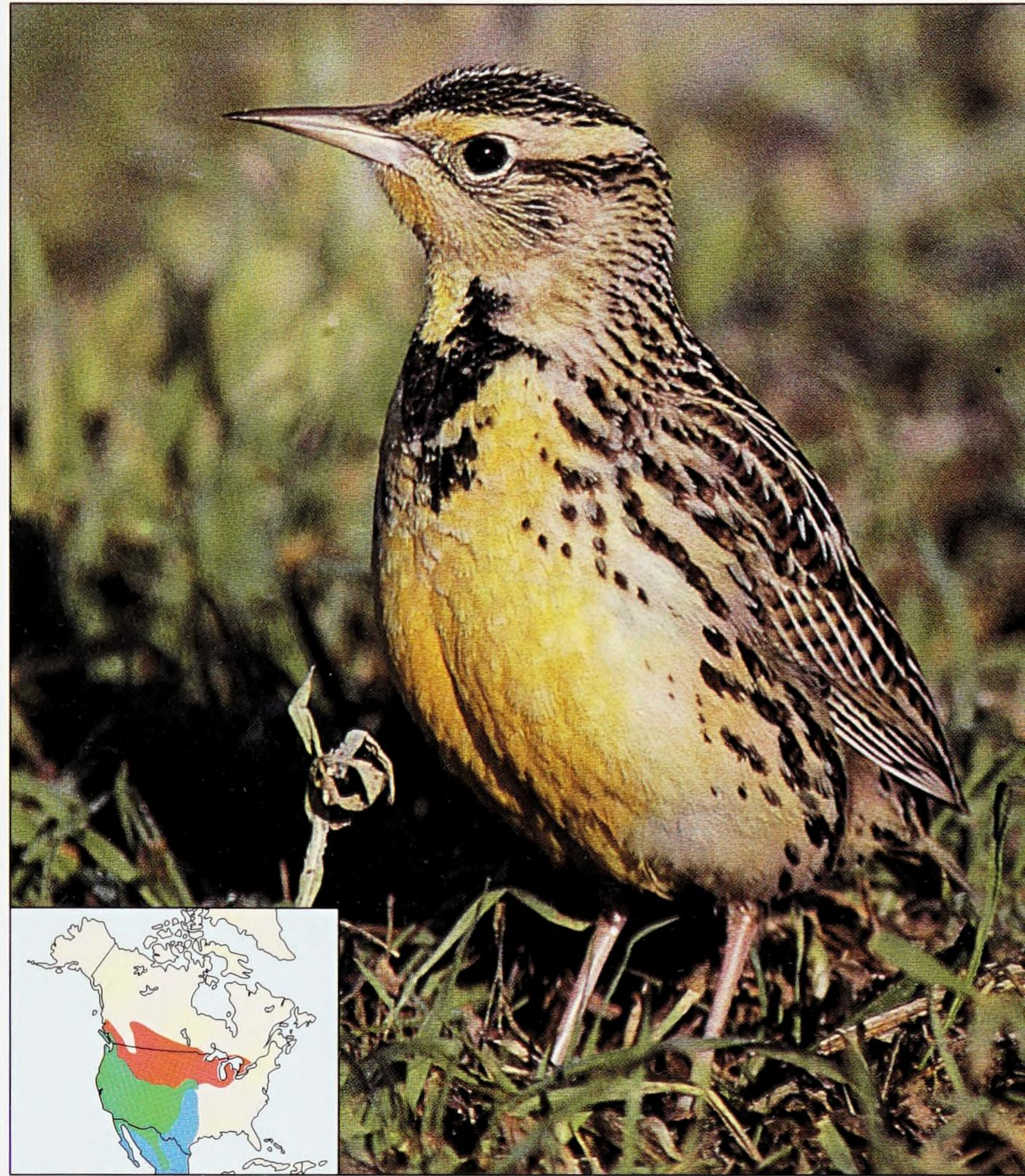
population appears to be declining. In fall it migrates across the southeast, east of the Great Plains, to spend the winter in South America. It nests on the ground in hayfields and grass meadows, creating a flimsy cup of grass hidden in a dense tuft of vegetation, in which it lays 4-7 pale gray eggs, blotched with lilac-brown. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks and the young birds leave the nest a further 2 weeks or so after hatching. The adult is a slender bird with rather pointed wings and pointed tail feathers. The breeding male is mostly black with a buffy nape and white patches on shoulder and rump. The female and winter male are buffy with dark streaks on the back, rump and sides, and buff and black stripes on the crown. The Bobolink often mixes with other species of blackbird in fall to form large, mixed flocks. It feeds on insects, grain and seeds.



WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Scientific name:	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>
Length:	9½ inches
Habitat:	Roadsides, grassland, open ground
Identification:	Heavy-bodied open-country bird with short tail and long bill. Dark gray-brown above with darker streaks and bars, buff-white stripes on black crown, cheek partly gray, yellow underparts with black V-shaped breast band, white outer tail feathers
Similar species:	Eastern Meadowlark almost identical and the two interbreed

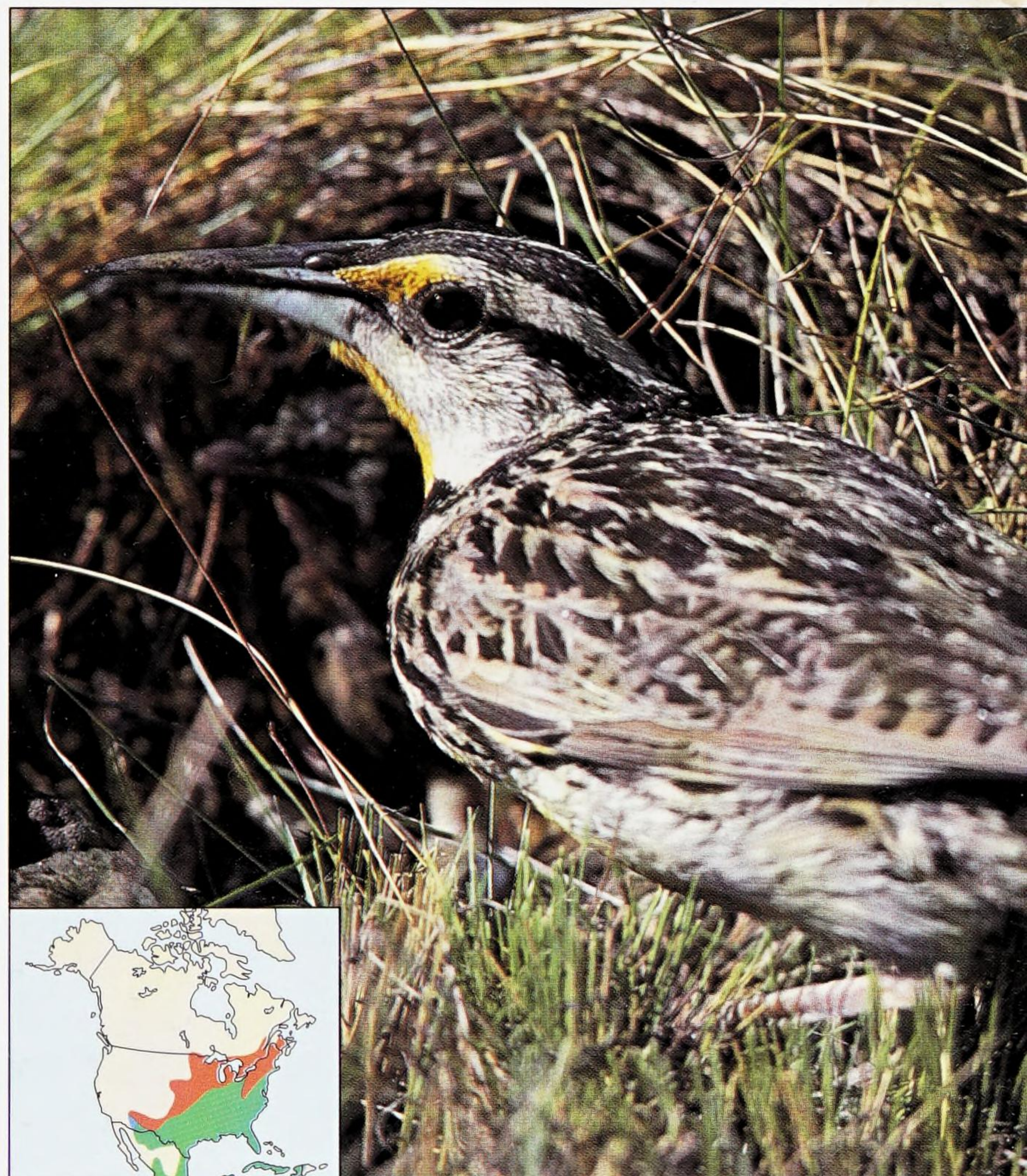
Almost identical to the Eastern, the Western Meadowlark can sometimes be distinguished by range and call, although where the ranges overlap they learn each other's call and interbreed. The Western Meadowlark tends to prefer low vegetation and is often seen on roadsides. It nests on the ground, building a cup with a dome-shaped roof of grass hidden in dense vegetation, in which it lays 3-7 white eggs, heavily spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for up to 2 weeks and the young birds begin to fend for themselves a further 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a heavy-bodied bird with a short tail and a long, pointed bill. It is dark gray-brown above with darker streaks and bars, has three buff-white stripes on a black crown, gray on the upper cheek, yellow throat extends round onto lower cheek, yellow underparts with a black V-shaped breast band, and white outer tail feathers. Its song is a bubbling, flute-like and complex series of phrases speeding up towards the end and its call is a low-pitched *chook*. The Western Meadowlark eats insects, spiders, grain and seeds.

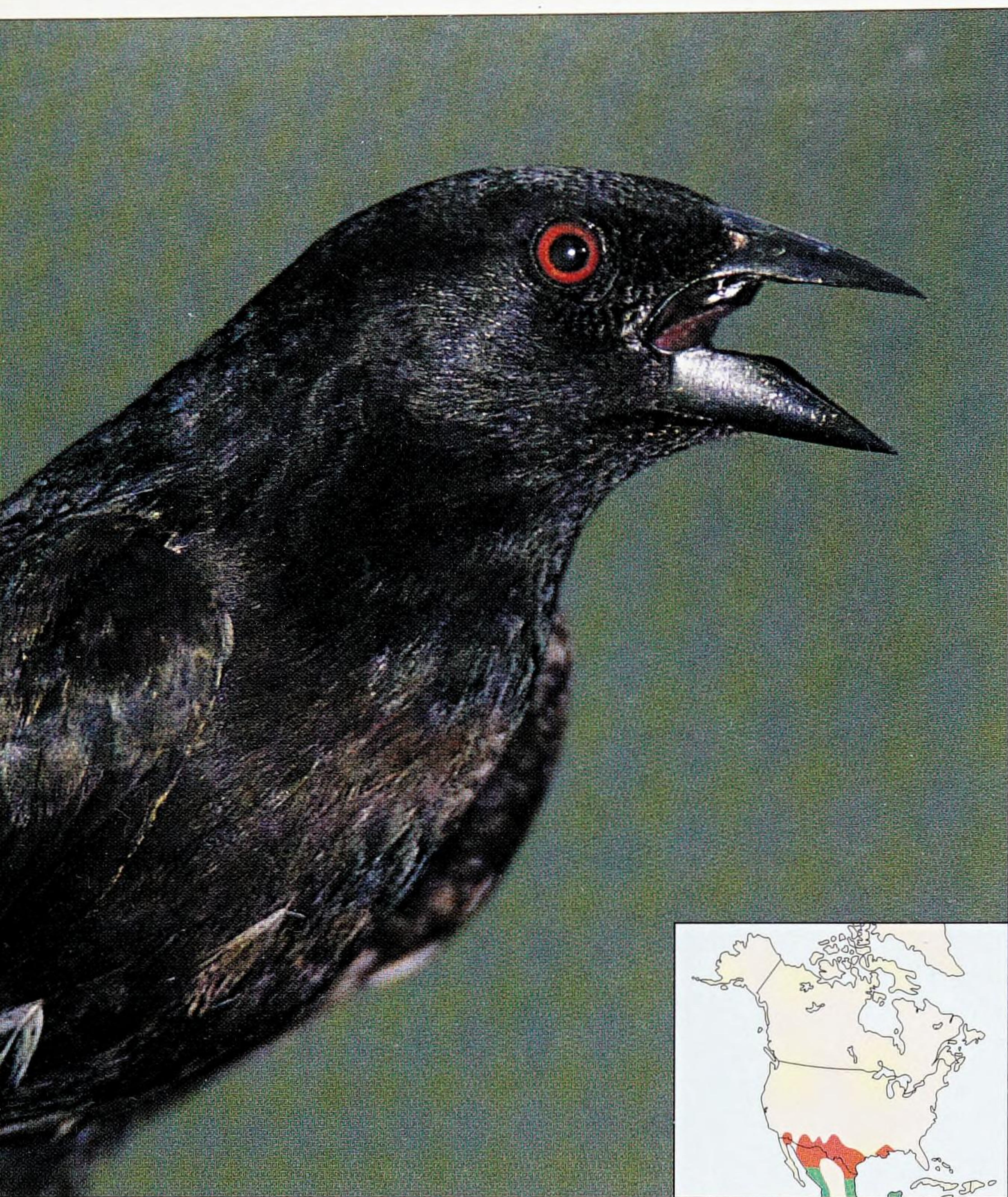


EASTERN MEADOWLARK

Scientific name:	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
Length:	9½ inches
Habitat:	Fields, meadows
Identification:	Heavy-bodied open-country bird with short tail and long bill. Dark gray-brown above with darker streaks and bars, buff-white stripes on black crown, gray cheek, yellow underparts with black V-shaped breast band, white outer tail feathers
Similar species:	Western Meadowlark almost identical and the two interbreed

The Eastern and the Western meadowlarks are almost identical and although they can sometimes be distinguished by range and call, where their ranges overlap they learn each other's call and interbreed. The Eastern Meadowlark tends to prefer taller vegetation. It nests on the ground, building a grass cup with a dome-shaped roof of grass stems hidden in dense vegetation, in which it lays 3-7 white eggs, spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for up to 2 weeks and the young birds are ready to leave the nest to fend for themselves a further 10-12 days after hatching. The adult is a heavy-bodied bird with a short tail and a long, pointed bill. It is dark gray-brown above with darker streaks and bars, has three buff-white stripes on a black crown, a gray cheek, yellow underparts with a black V-shaped breast band, and extensive white on the outer tail feathers. Its song is a clear, whistled *te-seeyou see-yeeer*, its call is a high buzzy *drezzt*. The Eastern Meadowlark eats insects, spiders, grain and seeds.





BRONZED COWBIRD

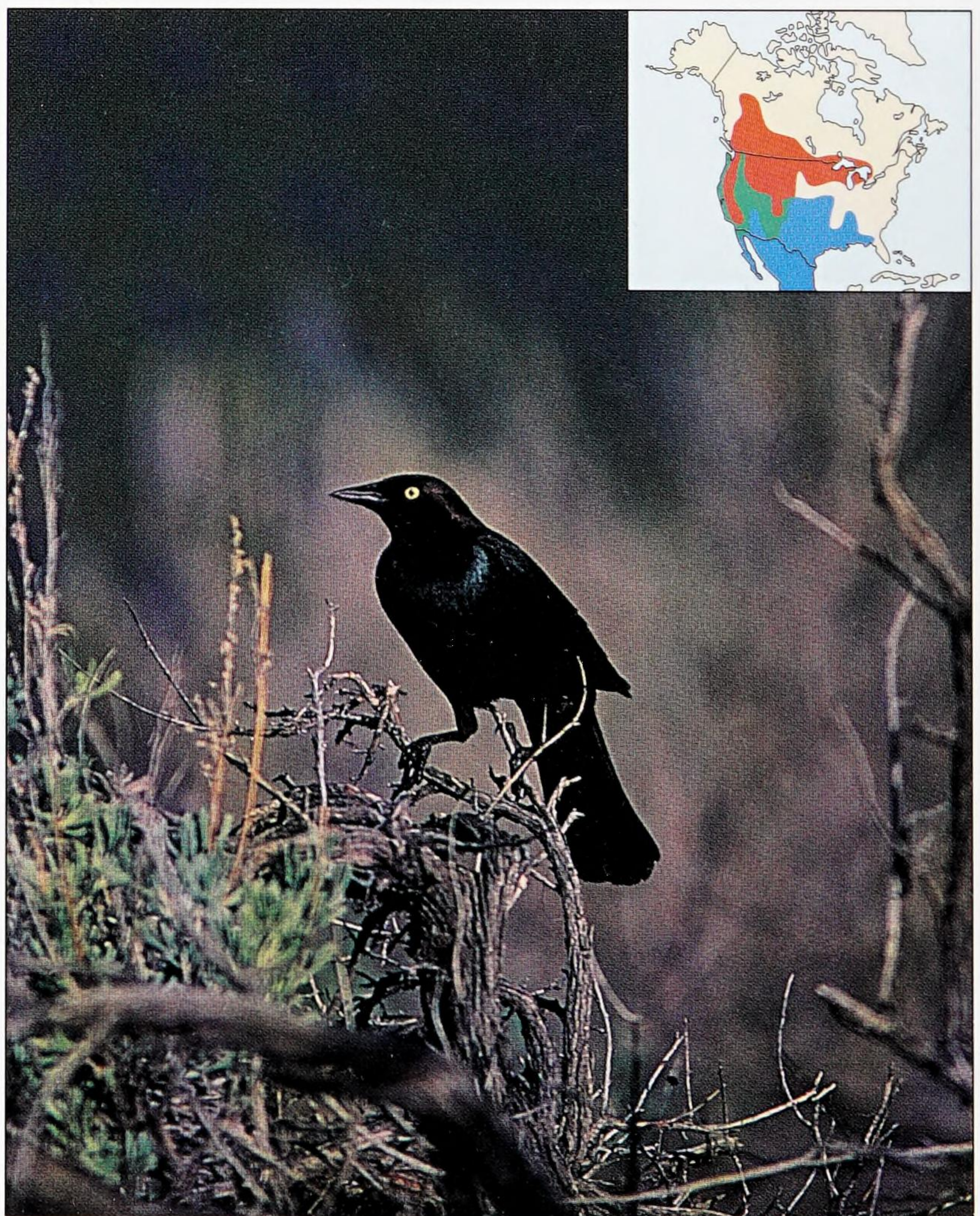
Scientific name:	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>
Length:	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	Open country, farmland, wooded mountain canyons
Identification:	Stocky, short-tailed open-country bird with long, heavy bill and thick ruff of feathers at neck. Male black with iridescent bronze sheen, glossy blue-black wings and tail, red-orange eyes. Female dull black or dark gray-brown with red eyes
Similar species:	Red eyes distinctive at close range

Although its range in North America is rather limited, the Bronzed Cowbird is locally common in open country in summer, and gathers round farmland and feedlots in winter. Outside the breeding season, it often forms huge flocks with its own species and blackbirds. It does not build its own nest, but lays its pale blue-green eggs in the nest of an oriole, blackbird or sparrow or other songbird of similar size, one egg per nest. These are incubated by the host bird and the young bird leaves the nest some 11 days after hatching. The adult is a stocky, short-tailed bird with a long conical bill and a thick ruff of feathers at the nape that gives it a hunched look. The male is black with an iridescent bronze sheen, glossy blue-black wings and tail and red-orange eyes. The female and juvenile are dull black or dark gray-brown with red eyes. The Bronzed Cowbird picks ticks from livestock, hence its name. It also eats grain and insects.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>
Length:	9 inches
Habitat:	Open ground, urban areas
Identification:	Slender, long-tailed open-country bird with short, straight bill. Breeding male black with iridescent purple head, green-violet glossy body, yellow eyes. Winter male less glossy. Female light gray-brown with brown eyes
Similar species:	The Rusty Blackbird has longer, thinner bill, plumage duller, breeding male has overall green sheen, female and juvenile rust-brown

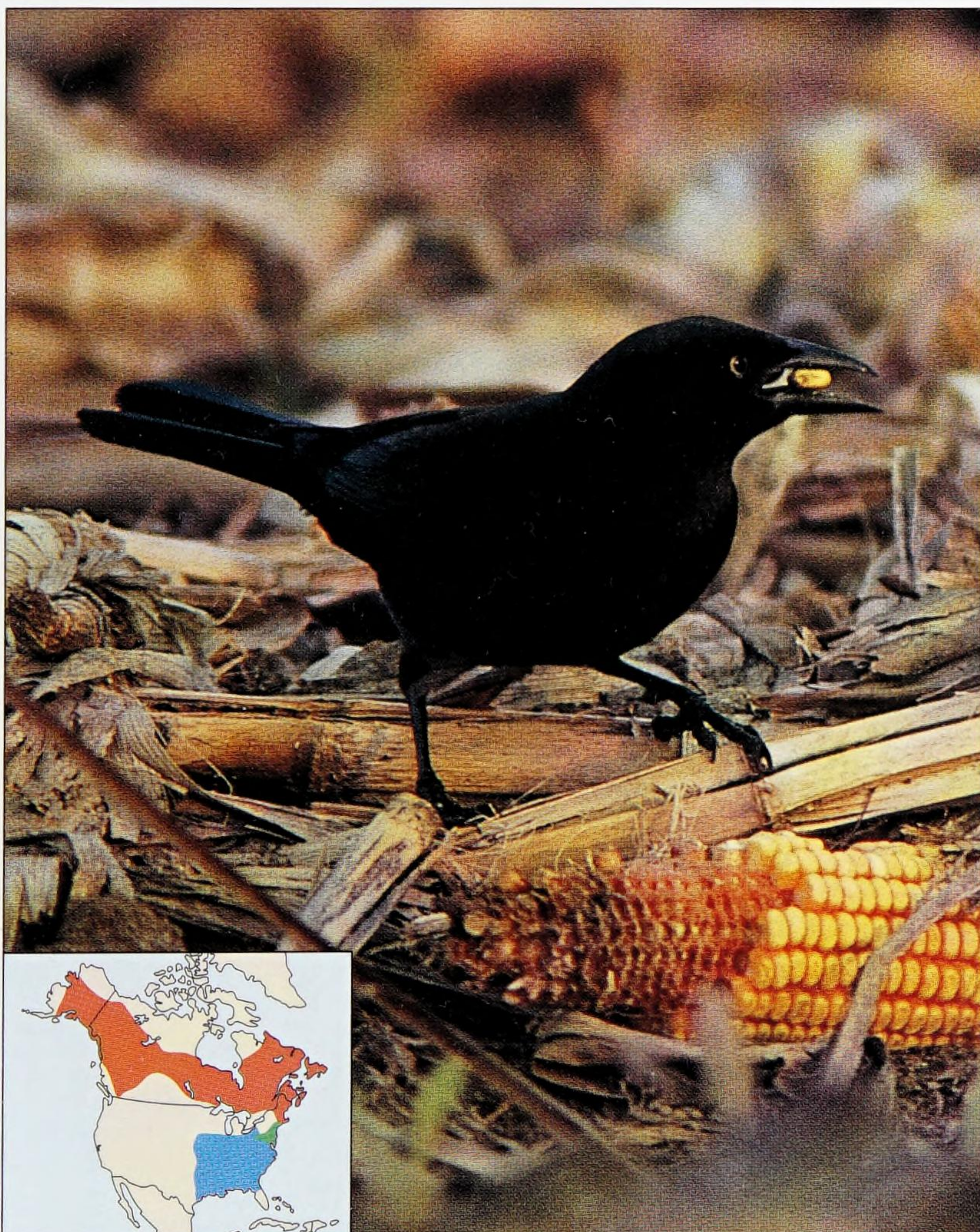
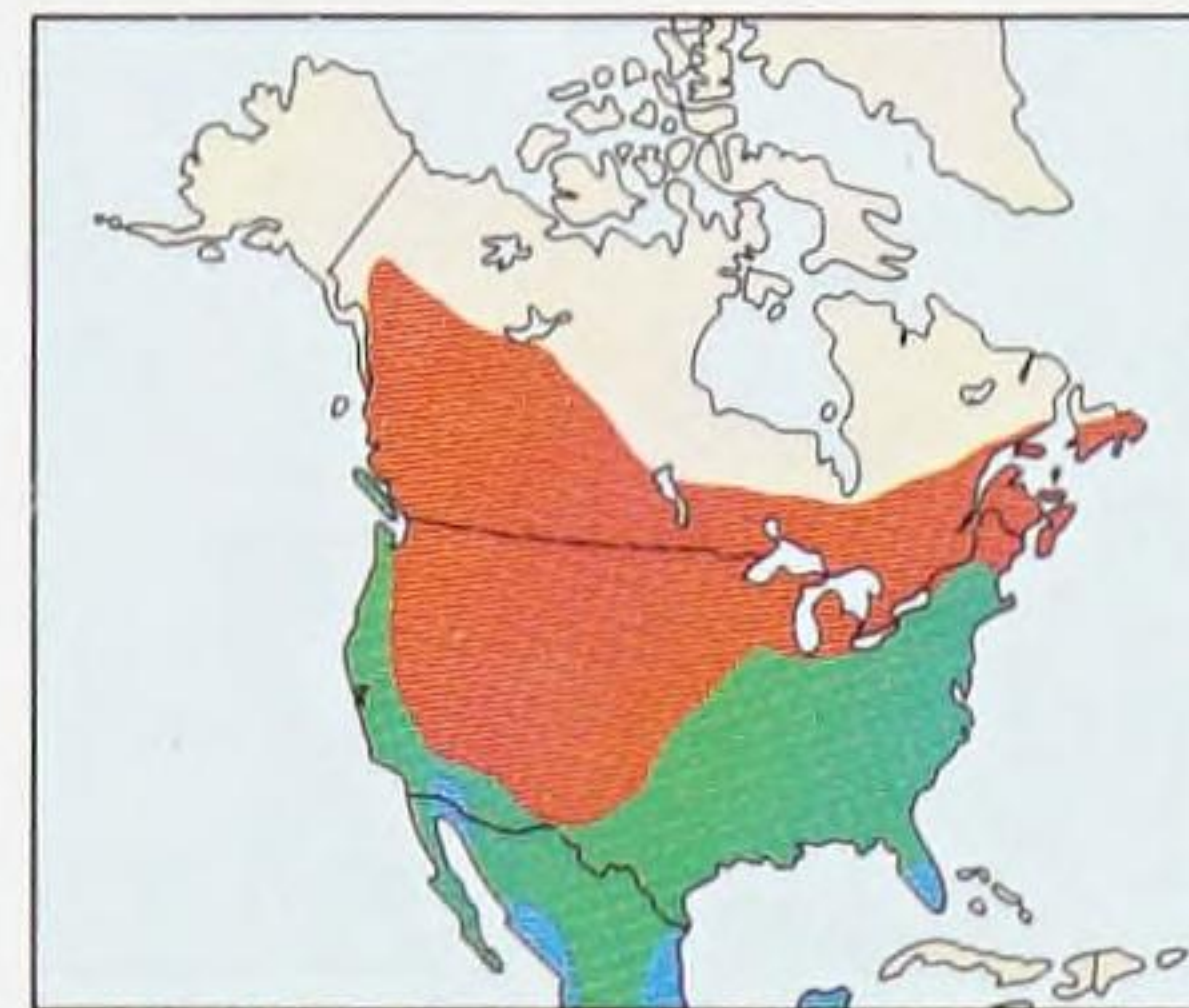
Brewer's Blackbird is very common in the west and is not only seen regularly in open country but also in suburban parks and sometimes even in city areas. It is a gregarious bird, and outside the breeding season often flocks with other blackbirds and the Brown-headed Cowbird. It nests in small, loose colonies, building a bulky bowl of twigs and grass plastered with mud or cow dung and lined with finer material, in which it lays 4-6 light gray eggs blotched with brown and gray. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female and the young leave the nest some 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a slender, long-tailed bird with a short, straight bill. The breeding male is black with an iridescent purple head, a very glossy green-violet body and yellow eyes; in winter it retains the basic coloring but is less glossy. The female and juvenile are light gray-brown with brown eyes. Brewer's Blackbird forages on the ground and eats seeds, grain and insects.



BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD

Scientific name:	<i>Molothrus ater</i>
Length:	7½ inches
Habitat:	Open woodland, farmland near cattle, suburbs
Identification:	Slender, short-tailed open-country bird with pointed wings. Male black with metallic green sheen and coffee-brown head. Female light gray-brown, juvenile gray-brown with scaled upperparts
Similar species:	Male distinctive, but female drab and confusing

The Brown-headed Cowbird is very common across most of North America and its population has increased with the clearing of forests so that it now threatens the existence of many smaller birds. It does not build its own nest, but lays its white eggs speckled with brown in the nest of a finch, warbler or vireo or other songbird of similar size, one egg per nest. These are incubated by the host bird, and after hatching the young cowbird crowds and starves out the other nestlings. The adult is a slender, short-tailed bird with pointed wings. The male is black with a metallic green sheen and a coffee-brown head. The female is light gray-brown and the juvenile is pale gray-brown with scaled upperparts. The Brown-headed Cowbird often feeds near livestock, walking on the ground with its tail held upward, and outside the breeding season it will often flock with other blackbirds in fields and pastures. It eats grain, seeds, berries and insects.



RUSTY BLACKBIRD

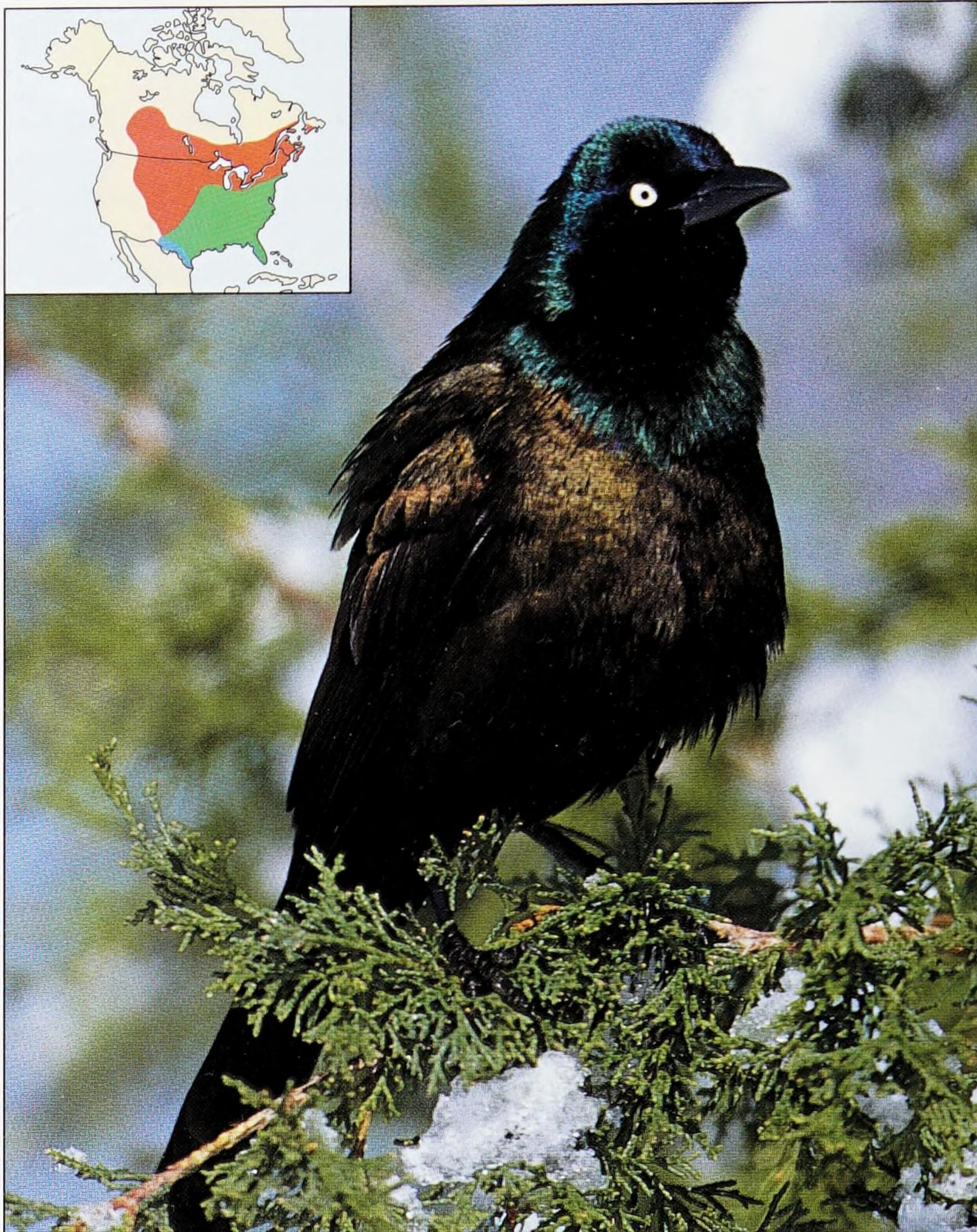
Scientific name:	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>
Length:	9 inches
Habitat:	Wet woodland, swamp, trees near water
Identification:	Slender, square-tailed swampland bird with thin pointed bill. Breeding male black with dull metallic green sheen, yellow eyes. Breeding female slate-gray with yellow eyes. Winter adults and juvenile light rust-brown, finely barred beneath
Similar species:	Brewer's Blackbird has shorter, thicker bill, plumage more glossy, male has purple sheen to head, female and juvenile gray-brown

Although it is sometimes still seen in large flocks, the Rusty Blackbird is not as common as it was and populations are still declining. It prefers wet habitats and is rarely found far from water. It nests on or near the ground in boreal woodland, building a bulky bowl of twigs and grass sheltered in vegetation or low in a shrub or tree, in which it lays 4 or 5 light blue eggs blotched with brown. These are incubated for around 2 weeks by the female and the young leave the nest some 2 weeks later. The adult is a slender, square-tailed bird with a thin pointed bill and yellow eyes. The breeding male is black with a dull metallic green sheen and the breeding female is slate-gray. Winter adults are light rust-brown, finely barred beneath, and the female has a gray rump. The juvenile resembles the winter adult, but has dark eyes. The Rusty Blackbird often forages in shallow water, catching small crustaceans, tadpoles and aquatic insects. It also eats seeds, grain and berries.

COMMON GRACKLE

Scientific name:	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Length:	12½ inches
Habitat:	Open fields, woods, swamps, parks, suburban lawns
Identification:	Medium-size long-billed open-country bird with long tail and yellow-white eyes. Male black with bronze sheen, blue gloss to head and breast, purple gloss on tail. Female smaller and duller. Juvenile dusky-brown, with brown eyes
Similar species:	Great-tailed and Boat-tailed larger and more evenly colored

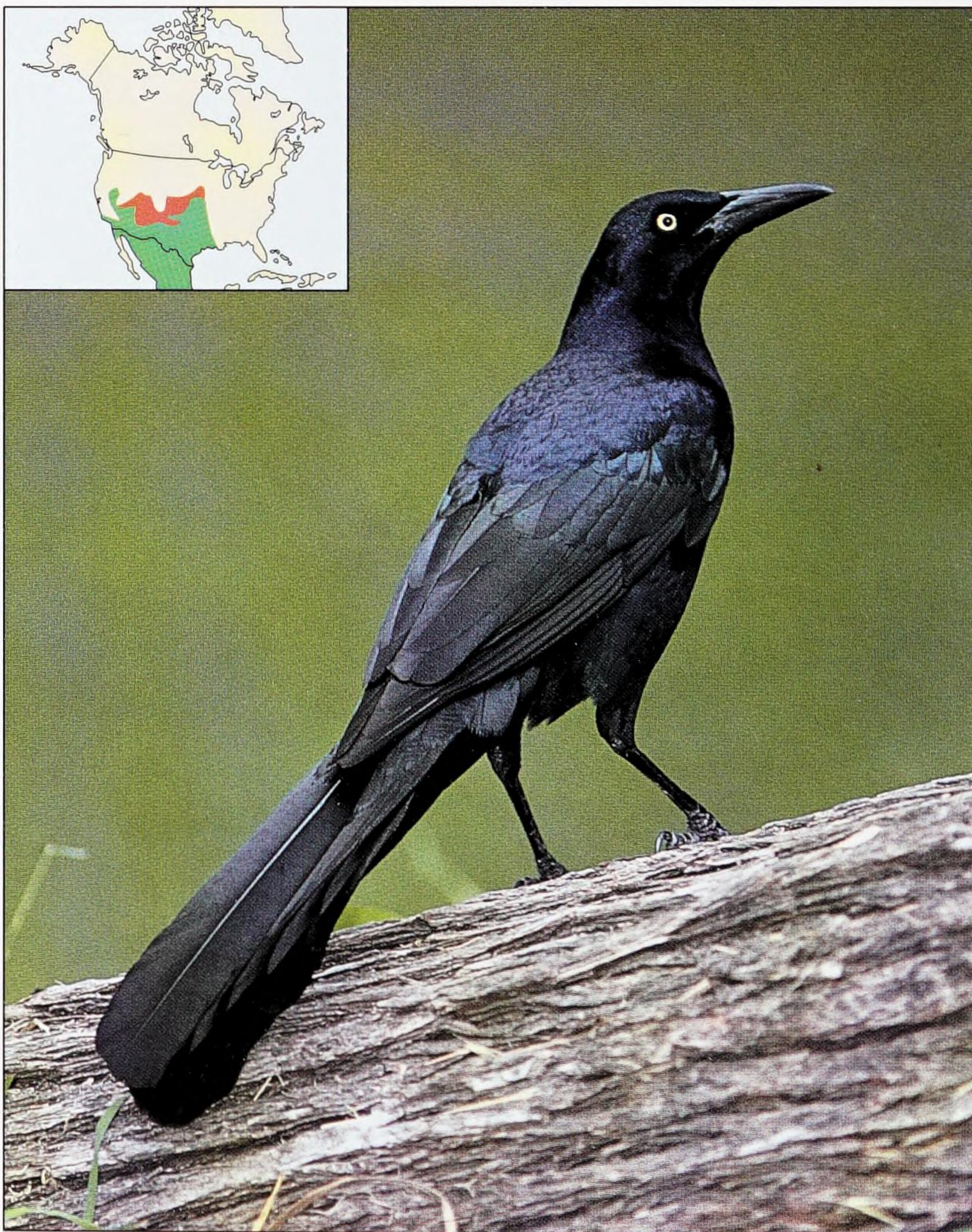
East of the Rockies, the Common Grackle is found in a wide variety of habitats - even walking on suburban lawns. It is gregarious, traveling in huge, noisy flocks, sometimes with other blackbirds, and breeding in colonies. It nests high above the ground in an evergreen tree, building a bulky and sturdy cup of twigs and grass, lined with finer stems, in which it lays 4-6 greenish eggs marked with brown. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest just under 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a medium-size, long-billed bird with a long, keel-shaped tail and yellow-white eyes. The most common male, the "Bronzed Grackle", is black with a bronze sheen to the body, a blue gloss on the head and breast, and a purple gloss to the tail. The "Purple Grackle" male is black with a bronze sheen, a dark green glossy back, a purple gloss on the head and breast, and a blue gloss to the tail. The female is smaller than the male and is less glossy. The juvenile is dark brown, with brown eyes. The Common Grackle feeds on the ground and eats almost anything, including grain, insects, small fish, salamanders, seeds and eggs and young of small birds.



GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Scientific name:	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
Length:	15 inches (female), 18 inches (male)
Habitat:	Open farmland, freshwater marsh, riversides
Identification:	Large long-billed open-country bird with long tail. Male black with iridescent purple-blue gloss and yellow eyes. Female and juvenile brown, with buff eyebrow and underparts, dark eye
Similar species:	Boat-tailed almost identical, but usually has dark eyes, rounder head and shorter tail. Common Grackle smaller, less evenly colored

A long-tailed blackbird, the Great-tailed Grackle is numerous in the southwest and its range is extending both north and westward. It is a social bird, traveling in flocks and breeding in colonies. It nests either on the ground or quite high above it, building a bulky mass of twigs and grass, lined with finer stems, amongst marsh reeds or in a tree or bush. It lays 3-5 bluish eggs covered with purple-brown scrawls, which are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest around 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a large, long-billed bird with a very long tail. The male is black with an iridescent purple-blue gloss and yellow eyes. The female is smaller than the male, with a shorter tail, and is brown, with a buff eyebrow and underparts and a dark eye. The juvenile resembles the adult female but may have some streaking beneath. The Great-tailed Grackle feeds on the ground and will eat a wide variety of things, including fruit, grain, insects, garbage, offal and small birds.



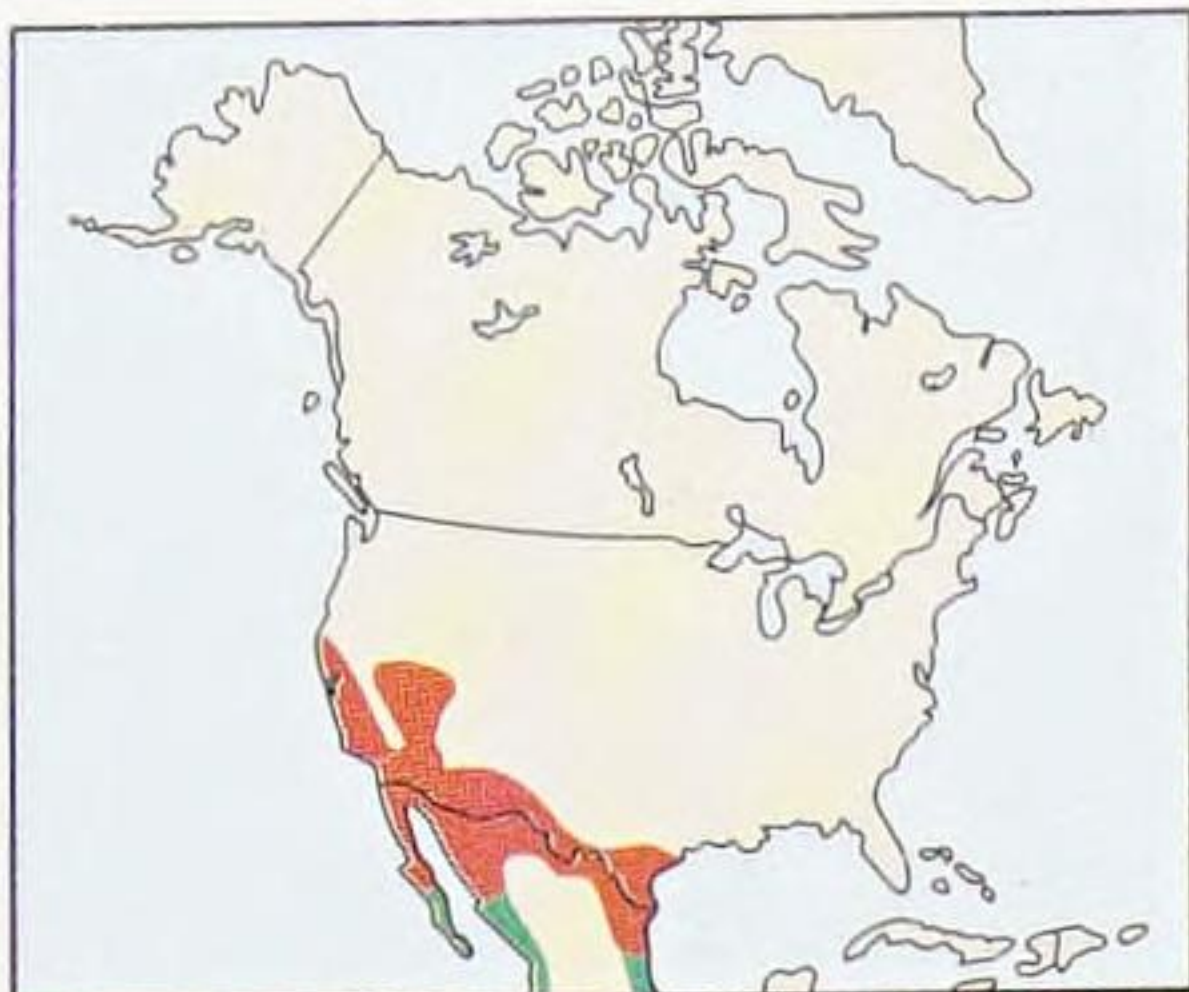


BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Scientific name:	<i>Quiscalus major</i>
Length:	14½ inches (female), 16½ inches (male)
Habitat:	Coastal saltwater marshes, inland lakes and streams
Identification:	Large long-billed open-country bird with long tail. Male black with iridescent green-blue gloss and brown eye. Female and juvenile tawny-brown, with buff eyebrow and underparts, brown eye
Similar species:	Great-tailed almost identical, but usually has yellow eyes, flatter head and longer tail. Common Grackle smaller, less evenly colored

The Boat-tailed Grackle is found along the southeast coastline and prefers saltwater marshes - although it does go inland in

Florida. It is gregarious, traveling in flocks and breeding in small colonies. It nests on the ground amongst marsh reeds or high in a tree or bush, building a bulky mass of twigs and grass, lined with finer stems. It lays 3-5 blue-white eggs marked with purple-brown, which are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest around 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a large, long-billed bird with a very long tail. The male is black with an iridescent green-blue gloss and brown eyes - but at the eastern end of its range some birds have yellow eyes. The female is smaller than the male, with a shorter tail, and is tawny-brown, with a buff eyebrow and underparts and a brown eye. The juvenile resembles the female but may have some streaking beneath. The Boat-tailed Grackle feeds on the ground and eats grain, insects and small birds.



HOODED ORIOLE *(above)*

Scientific name: *Icterus cucullatus*

Length: 8 inches

Habitat: Palm trees, riverside woods, parks, suburbs

Identification: Small, slender woodland bird, with long down-curved bill and long tail. Male is orange with a black throat, back and wings, two white wing bars. Female is olive-yellow above, yellow beneath with dusky wings and two white wing bars

Similar species: Male distinctive. Female and juvenile Orchard Oriole almost identical but have shorter tail, Baltimore and Bullock's orioles have orange tones or whitish belly, straighter bill

The Hooded Oriole is common during the summer in parks, suburbs and woods near rivers across the southwest. If possible, it prefers to nest in a palm or eucalyptus tree, weaving a hanging basket of plant fibers suspended from a palm frond or branch, with the entrance at the top. It lays 3-5 pale blue or gray eggs, spotted with brown and lilac, which are incubated for about 13-15 days by the female; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a small, slender bird, with a long, down-curved bill and a long tail. The male is orange with a black throat, back and wings, and two white wing bars. The female is olive-yellow above, yellow beneath with dusky wings and two white wing bars. The juvenile resembles the female, but the male soon has a black bib as it begins to acquire its adult plumage. The Hooded Oriole forages slowly through the trees hunting for insects. It also takes nectar from flowers and will often visit garden hummingbird feeders.

ORCHARD ORIOLE

Scientific name: *Icterus spurius*

Length: 7½ inches

Habitat: Stands of trees, woodland edges, suburbs

Identification: Small, compact woodland bird, with thin, down-curved bill and short tail. Male is chestnut with a black hood and wings, two white wing bars. Female is olive above, lemon-yellow beneath with dusky wings and two white wing bars

Similar species: Male distinctive. Female and juvenile Hooded Oriole almost identical but have longer tail, Baltimore and Bullock's orioles have orange tones or whitish belly, straighter bill

The smallest North American oriole, the Orchard Oriole is found across the eastern states in summer at the edges of woodland or in small stands of trees. It is most common in the southeast, but rarer towards the northern parts of its range. It nests up to 20 feet above the ground, weaving a hanging cup of plant fibers suspended from a tree branch, in which it lays 3-7 pale blue-gray eggs, spotted with brown and lilac. These are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female, and the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 13-15 days after hatching. The adult is a small, compact bird, with a thin, down-curved bill and short tail. The male is chestnut with a black hood and wings, and two white wing bars. The female is olive above, lemon-yellow beneath with dusky wings and two white wing bars. The juvenile resembles the female, but the male soon has a black bib as it begins to acquire its adult plumage. The Orchard Oriole forages in trees and eats insects and fruit, but it also takes nectar from flowers and may visit hummingbird feeders.

ALTAMIRA ORIOLE

Scientific name:	<i>Icterus gularis</i>
Length:	10 inches
Habitat:	Tall riverside trees, willow, mesquite
Identification:	Large woodland bird, with thick bill and long tail. Orange with a black throat, back and wings, orange shoulder bar, white wing bar. Juvenile duller with yellow shoulder patch
Similar species:	Hooded Oriole has longer, thinner bill, and white rather than orange wing bar

Only found in North America in the Rio Grande valley in south Texas and down into Mexico, the Altamira Oriole is locally common

throughout the year. When looking for a nesting site it tends to prefer tall, riverside trees, weaving a long, hanging basket of plant fibers suspended from a branch, with the entrance situated at the top. It usually lays 3 or 4 white eggs, spotted with brown, and raises two broods a year, but the exact details of incubation and nestling periods are currently unknown. In the breeding season it is a frequent victim of the Bronzed Cowbird, which often chooses to lay an egg in its nest. The adult is a large bird with a shortish, thick, slightly down-curved bill and a long tail. Its plumage is orange with a black throat, back and wings, an orange shoulder bar and a white wing bar. The juvenile is duller than the adult bird, with a yellow shoulder bar, but it soon develops a black bib as it begins to acquire its mature plumage, a process that is complete by its second fall. The Altamira Oriole eats insects and berries.



BALTIMORE ORIOLE

- Scientific name:** *Icterus galbula*
Length: 8½ inches
Habitat: Deciduous woodland
Identification: Medium-size woodland bird, with long straight bill and short square tail. Male has black hood and back, bright orange rump and underparts, orange shoulder patch, white wing bar, large orange patches each side of tail. Female is olive-brown above, orange beneath with variable black on head and throat, dusky wings and two white wing bars. Juvenile like female but yellow breast and whitish belly
Similar species: Female and juvenile Bullock's Oriole can look almost identical to juvenile Baltimore. Orchard and Hooded orioles are more yellow, with down-curved bill

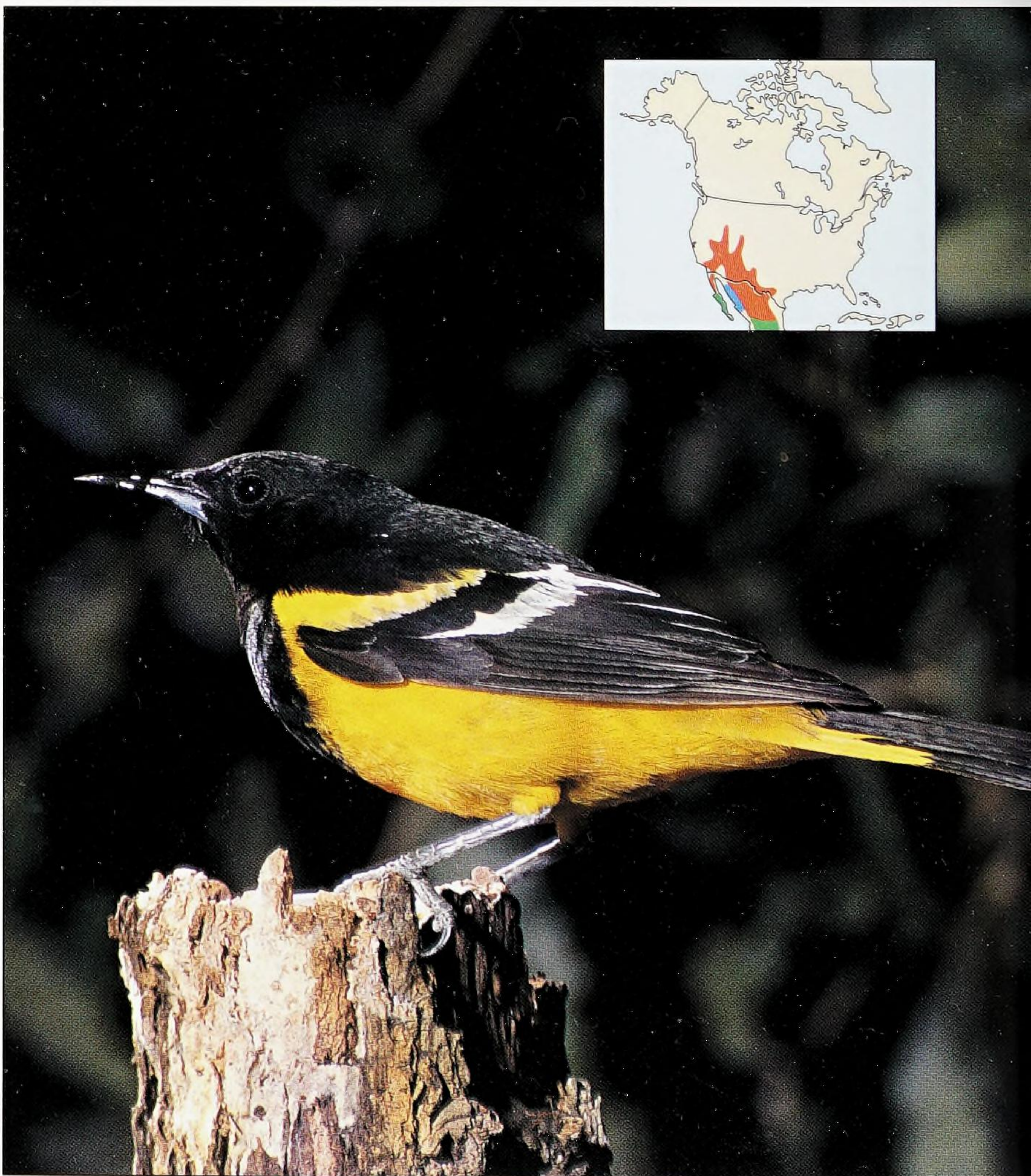
The Baltimore and Bullock's orioles are very similar and sometimes interbreed, so they are often considered to be one species, the Northern Oriole. The Baltimore is found mainly to the northeast and prefers deciduous woods. It nests high above the ground, weaving a hanging basket of plant fibers suspended from the tip of a branch, in which it lays 3-6 whitish eggs, with brown scrawls. The adult is medium-size, with a long, straight bill and a short, square tail. The male (*right*) has a black hood and back, a bright orange rump and underparts, an orange shoulder patch, white wing bar, and large orange patches on each side of the tail. The female is olive-brown above and orange beneath, with variable amounts of black on the head and throat, dusky wings and two white wing bars. The juvenile is like the female but has a yellow breast and whitish belly. The Baltimore Oriole eats insects and fruit.



SCOTT'S ORIOLE

- Scientific name:** *Icterus parisorum*
Length: 9 inches
Habitat: Arid grassland with yuccas, junipers, oak woods
Identification: Medium-size woodland bird, with long, thin, down-curved bill and long tail. Male has black hood, back, and breast, bright lemon-yellow underparts, rump and upper tail, black lower tail and wings, yellow shoulder bar, one white wing bar. Female is dusky-yellow above, yellow beneath with dusky wings and two white wing bars
Similar species: Male is distinctive, female is larger and darker than Hooded or Orchard orioles

In the dry grassland and semi-arid woods of the southwest, Scott's Oriole is fairly widespread but rather uncommon. It nests high above the ground, weaving a hanging pouch of plant fibers suspended from the leaves of a yucca or the branch of a tree, with the entrance at the top. It lays 3-5 blue-white eggs, unevenly spotted with brown, which are incubated for 13-15 days by the female; the young birds are ready to leave the nest around 2 weeks after hatching and there is usually a second brood. The adult is a medium-size bird, with a long, thin, down-curved bill and a long tail. The male (*right*) has a black hood, back, and breast, bright lemon-yellow underparts, rump and upper tail, a black lower tail and wings, a yellow shoulder bar, and one white wing bar. The female is dusky-yellow above, yellow beneath with dusky wings and two white wing bars. The juvenile resembles the female, but the male soon develops black marks at the throat as it begins to acquire its adult plumage. Scott's Oriole forages in trees for insects. It also eats fruit and takes nectar from flowers.



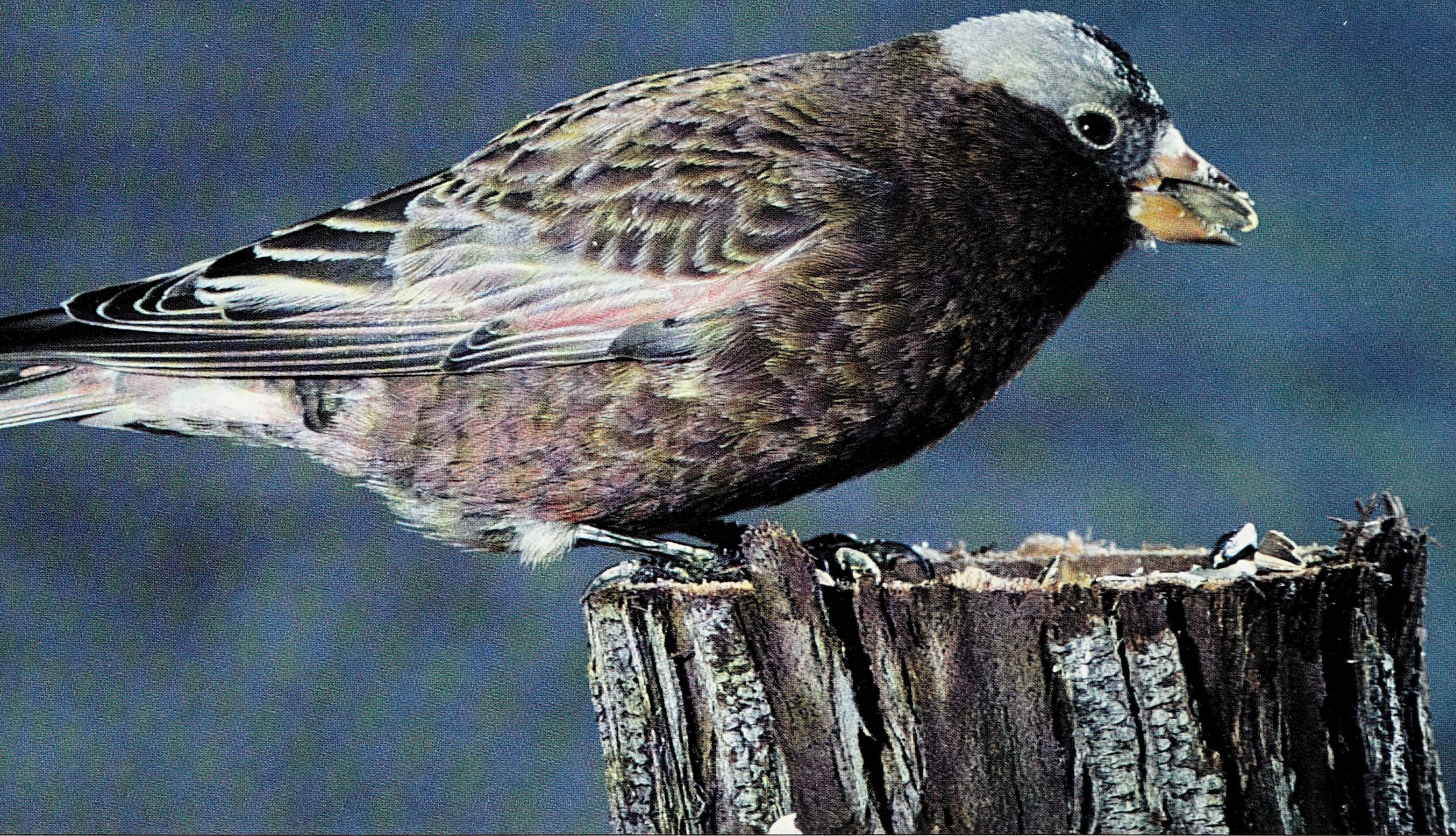


BULLOCK'S ORIOLE

Scientific name:	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>
Length:	8¼ inches
Habitat:	Riverside treetops, lowland woods
Identification:	Medium-size woodland bird, with long straight bill and short square tail. Male has black crown, nape and back, narrow black eyeline, bright orange rump and underparts, large white wing patch, black inverted T on orange tail. Female and juvenile olive-brown above, yellow throat and breast and whitish belly, dusky wings and two white wing bars
Similar species:	Female and juvenile Bullock's Oriole can look almost identical to juvenile Baltimore. Orchard and Hooded orioles are more yellow, with down-curved bill

The ranges of Baltimore and Bullock's orioles were once separated by treeless plains, but now these have been broken up by towns and

other settlements, the Baltimore has spread west and Bullock's east. Where they now overlap they will often interbreed freely, so they are sometimes considered to be one species, the Northern Oriole. Bullock's Oriole is found mainly to the southwest in summer and prefers trees along rivers and lowland woods. It nests high above the ground, weaving a hanging basket of plant fibers suspended from the tip of a branch, with the entrance at the top. It lays 3-6 blue-white eggs, with gray or black scrawls, which are incubated for about 2 weeks by the female; the young birds are ready to leave the nest about 13-15 days after they have hatched. The adult is a medium-size bird, with a long, straight bill and a short, square tail. The male (*above*) has a black crown, nape and back, a narrow black eyeline, a bright orange rump and underparts, a large white wing patch, and a black inverted T on an orange tail. The female and juvenile are olive-brown above, with a yellow throat and breast and a whitish belly, dusky wings and two white wing bars. Bullock's Oriole forages in the trees for insects and also eats fruit.



GRAY-CROWNED ROSY-FINCH

Scientific name:	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>
Length:	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
Habitat:	High mountains
Identification:	Slender, long-winged open-country bird with long tail and short legs. Dark brown back and underparts, black forehead, gray nape and crown, pink shoulder and rump, face gray or brown. Female duller
Similar species:	Black Rosy-Finch has similar coloring but with more contrast

In summer the Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch lives high in the mountains, but in winter it descends to lower elevations - although it rarely comes right down onto the plains. It breeds on alpine tundra and high snowfields, building a bulky nest of grass, feathers and moss in a rock cavity, in which it lays 3-6 white eggs. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks and the young birds leave the nest to begin fending for themselves about 3 weeks after hatching. The adult is a slender, long-winged bird with a long tail and rather short legs. It has a dark brown back and underparts, a black forehead, a gray nape and crown, and pink on the shoulder and rump. Birds near the coast have a gray face, inland birds have a brown face. The female is similar, but duller and the juvenile more gray. The Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch feeds mainly on alpine plant seeds and insects at lower elevations.

EVENING GROSBEAK *(below)*

Scientific name:	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>
Length:	8 inches
Habitat:	Mixed woods, suburban backyards
Identification:	Medium-size, short-tailed woodland bird, with short pointed wings and massive bill. Male dark olive-brown head, neck and breast, yellow forehead and eyebrow, yellow body, black wings and tail with large white wing patch. Female and juvenile grayish-gold, black wings and tail marked with white
Similar species:	Goldfinches smaller, with much smaller bill

A wandering nomad, both range and numbers of the Evening Grosbeak vary a great deal from year to year. It is often seen in large, noisy flocks, which may visit feeders to eat sunflower seeds. It breeds in woodland, building a loose, flimsy bowl of small twigs and rootlets near the tip of a branch in dense foliage - several pairs may nest quite near one another. It lays 3 or 4 bluish-green eggs with fine markings, which are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female bird; the young birds leave the nest around 2 weeks later. The adult is a medium-size, short-tailed bird, with short, pointed wings and massive, conical bill that is yellow-green in breeding birds and ivory in winter. The male has a dark olive-brown head, neck and breast, a yellow forehead and eyebrow, yellow body, and black wings and tail with a large white wing patch. The female and juvenile are grayish-gold, with black wings and tail marked with white. The Evening Grosbeak forages high in trees in flocks, for seeds, berries, buds or fruit - it also sometimes eats insects.

BLACK ROSY-FINCH

Scientific name:	<i>Leucosticte atrata</i>
Length:	6 inches
Habitat:	High altitude areas, mountain towns
Identification:	Slender, long-winged open-country bird with long tail and short legs. Dark brown-black back and breast, black forehead, gray nape and cap, pink shoulder, belly and rump. Female browner, may lack gray cap
Similar species:	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch has similar coloring but with less contrast

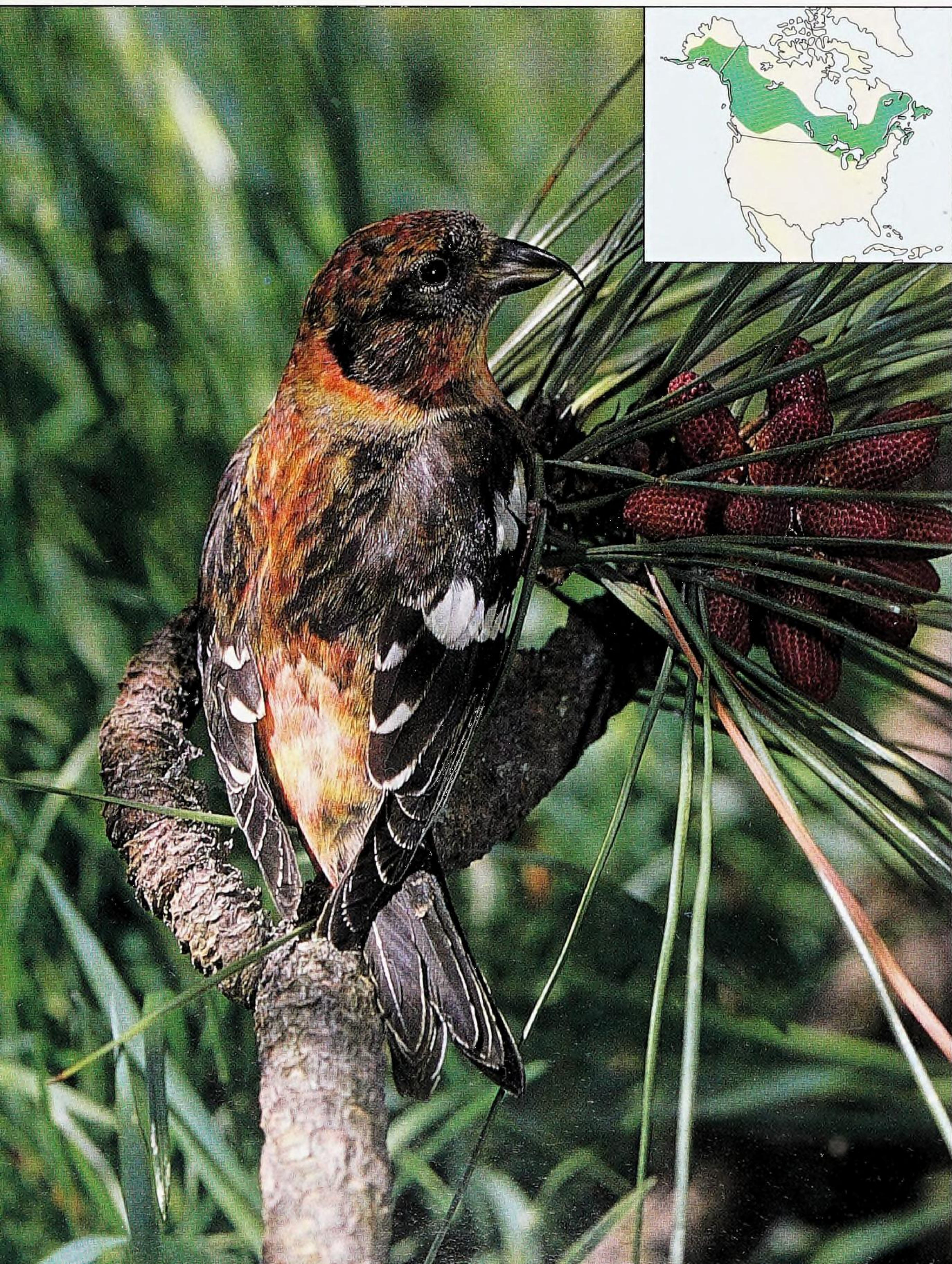
The Black Rosy-Finch lives high in the Rocky Mountains during the summer, but when winter comes it spreads down to the lower elevations and sometimes forms mixed flocks with the Gray-crowned. The breeding grounds of the Black Rosy-Finch are high in the mountains, where it builds a bulky nest of grass, feathers and moss in a cliff cavity, in which it lays 3-5 white eggs. These are incubated by the female for around 2 weeks and the young birds begin fending for themselves about 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a slender, long-winged bird with a long tail and rather short legs. It has a dark brown-black back and breast, a black forehead, a gray nape and cap, and pink on the shoulder, belly and rump. In its fresh plumage, the male may have some silver-gray scaling. The female is very similar to the male, but is rather grayer or browner and has less pink. The Black Rosy-Finch forages on the ground, hunting for the seeds of alpine plants. At lower elevations it will also eat insects, and it may come to visit the bird feeders in alpine towns.



RED CROSSBILL

Scientific name:	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
Length:	6¼ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous woods
Identification:	Stocky woodland bird with short tail and large bill with crossed tip. Male mottled brick-red with dark wings and tail. Female mottled olive-gray with darker wings, dull yellow rump and underparts. Juvenile orange-tinted with dusky streaks
Similar species:	White-winged Crossbill has two broad white wing bars

The unique bill of this species has developed to allow it to open pine cones and extract the seed. The Red Crossbill lives in coniferous forests but wanders around in flocks in search of pine cones and breeds in any season when food is plentiful - even in the depths of winter. It nests well above the ground in a conifer, building a neat, shallow cup of twigs, rootlets and moss lined with lichens and fur in which it lays 3-5 bluish eggs spotted with brown at the rounded end. The female bird incubates the eggs for around 2 weeks and the young leave the nest around 15-17 days after they have hatched. The adult is a stocky bird with a short tail and a large bill with the tips of the mandibles crossed. The male is mottled brick-red above and below, with dark tail and wings. The female is mottled olive-gray with darker wings, and a dull yellow rump and underparts. The juvenile is orange-tinted with dusky streaks. The Red Crossbill eats pine nuts and insects.



WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

Scientific name:	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>
Length:	6½ inches
Habitat:	Coniferous woods
Identification:	Plump woodland bird with short notched tail and large bill with crossed tip. Male pink-red with dark tail and wings with two broad white wing bars. Female olive-gray with yellow rump, dark tail and wings, two white wing bars. Juvenile heavily streaked with narrow white wing bars
Similar species:	Red Crossbill darker and lacks white wing bars

Like the Red Crossbill, the White-winged Crossbill lives within coniferous forests but wanders around in flocks in search of cones and breeds whenever food is plentiful - even in the depths of winter. It nests well above the ground in a conifer, building a deep cup of twigs, rootlets, bark strips and moss lined with fine grass and feathers. It lays 3 or 4 greenish-white eggs spotted with brown, which are incubated for around 2 weeks. The adult is a stocky bird with a short, notched tail and a large bill with the tips of the mandibles crossed. The male is pink-red, with a dark tail and wings and two broad white wing bars. The female is olive-gray with a yellow rump, dark tail and wings, and two broad white wing bars. The juvenile is heavily streaked and has narrower wing bars than the adults. The White-winged Crossbill has a smaller, slimmer bill than the Red, so it is much better adapted for spruce cones rather than pine. It also eats other seeds, fruit and insects.

PINE GROSBEAK

Scientific name: *Pinicola enucleator*

Length: 9 inches

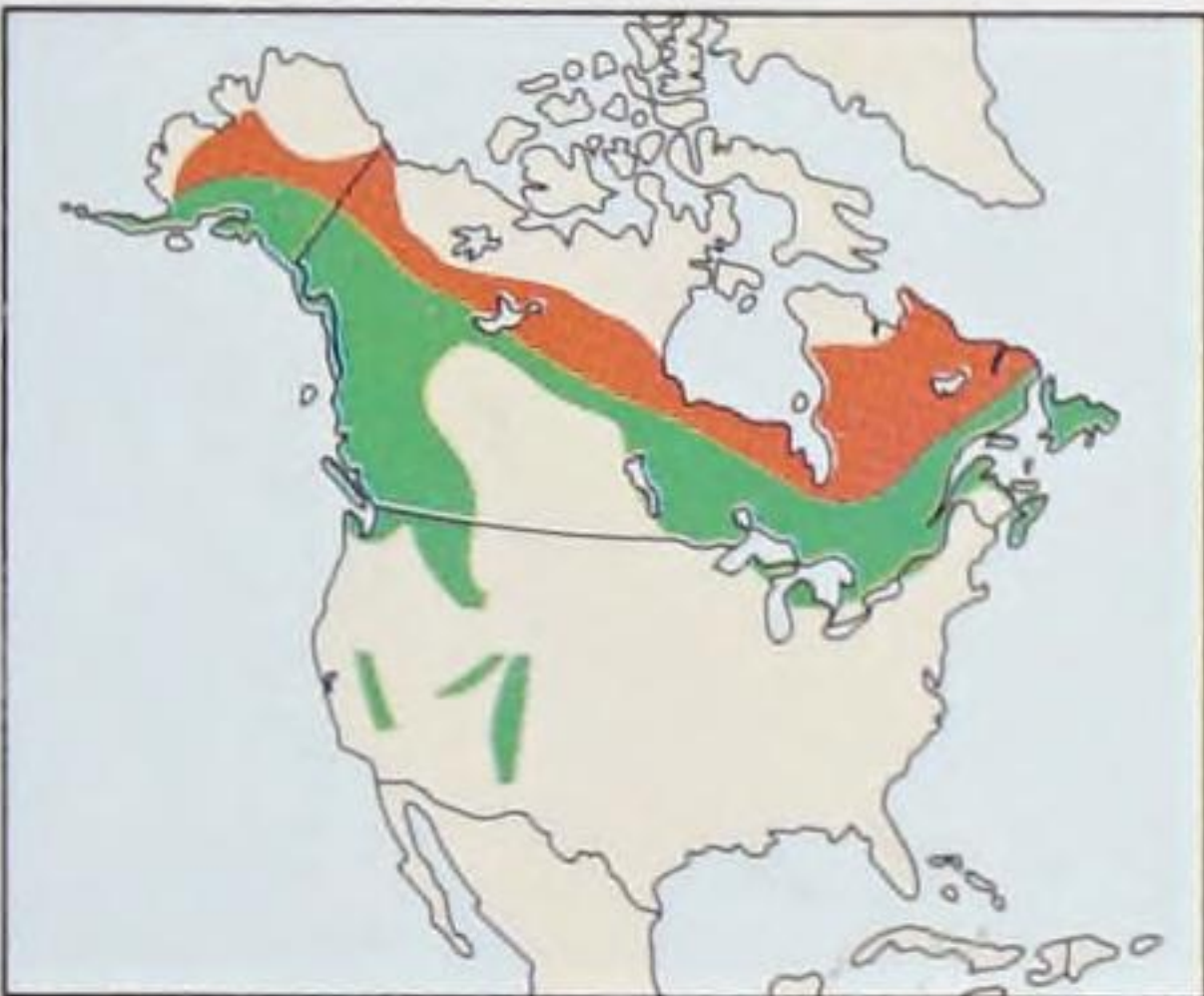
Habitat: Spruce and fir woods, deciduous woods, orchards, mature suburban trees

Identification: Large, plump woodland bird with long notched tail and stubby rounded bill. Male mostly rose-pink with dark streaking on back, gray tail, dark wings with two white wing bars. Female gray with mustard head and rump, dark wings, two white wing bars. Juvenile similar to female but russet head and rump

Similar species: Red and White-winged crossbill much smaller, with longer bill

deciduous forests, sometimes coming well down into the south in search of food and seen in orchards and suburban trees. It nests up to 12 feet above the ground, usually in a conifer, building a bulky cup of grasses, rootlets and moss lined with hair in which it lays 2-5 pale greeny-blue eggs spotted with brown and gray. The female bird incubates the eggs for around 2 weeks and the young leave the nest around 3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a large, plump bird with a long notched tail and a stubby, rounded black bill. The male (*below*) is mostly rose-pink above and below, with dark streaking on the back, gray under the tail, a dark tail and wings and two white wing bars. The female is gray with a mustard head and rump, dark wings and two white wing bars. The juvenile is very similar to the adult female but has a russet head and rump. The Pine Grosbeak eats seeds, buds, berries, nuts and insects.

Mainly found in the conifer forests of the far north, the Pine Grosbeak can be quite common. In winter it is also found in



PURPLE FINCH

Scientific name: *Carpodacus purpureus*

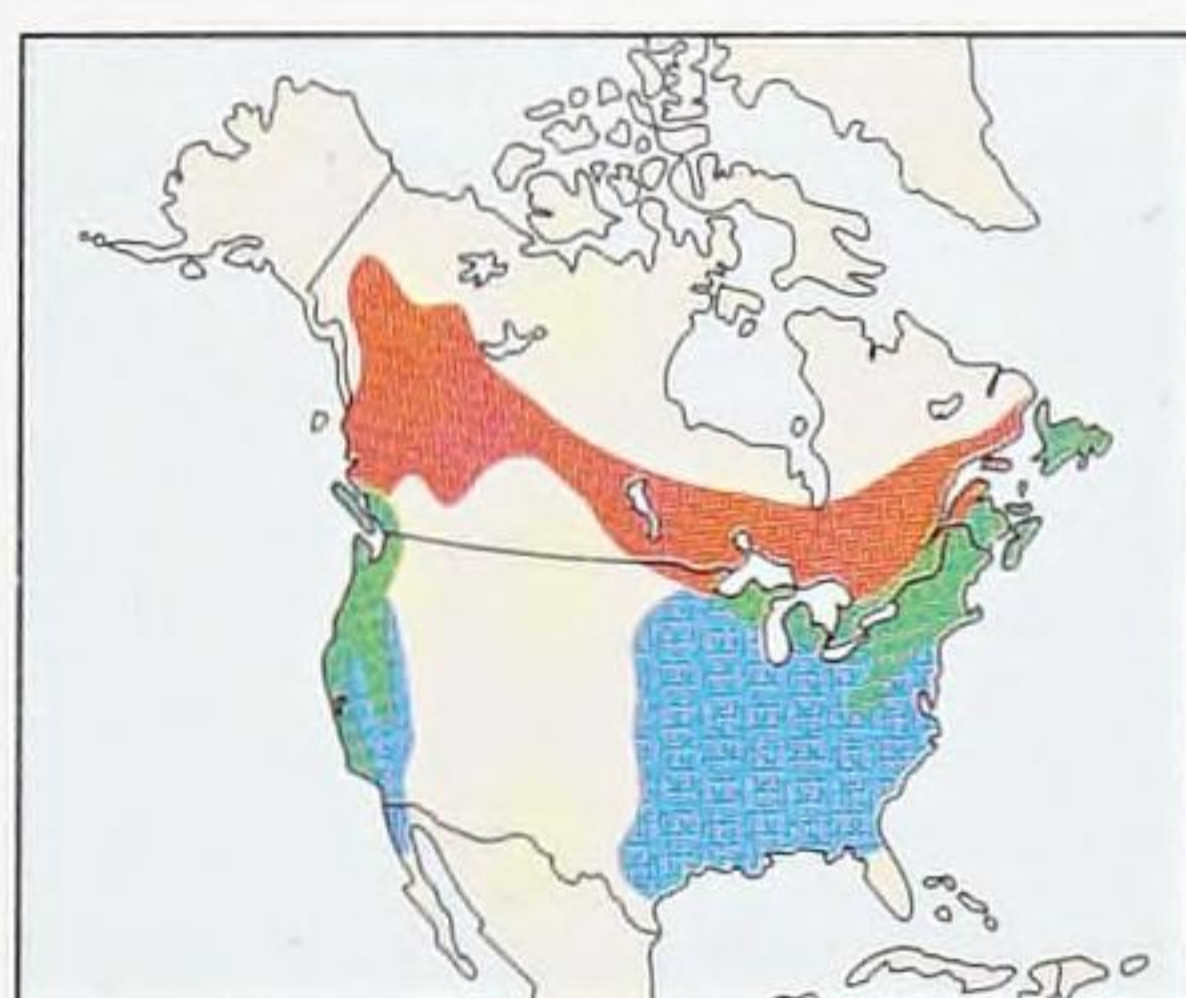
Length: 6 inches

Habitat: Coniferous and mixed woodland, suburbs, parks, wooded canyons, orchards

Identification: Stocky woodland bird with short, notched tail and stout bill. Male mostly dusky rosy-red, with brown streaked back, white belly, brown wings and tail. Female streaked brown above, white streaked brown beneath, bold brown and white stripes on head, broad white eyebrow, brown cheek with white mustache mark

Similar species: Male darker than Cassin's or House finch, female has heavier streaking on breast

Despite its name, the Purple Finch is pink rather than purple. It is fairly common across most of its range and can be seen in large flocks in orchards and parks during fall and winter. It breeds in the north, building a neat, shallow nest of twigs, bark strips and rootlets lined with grass, up to 60 feet above the ground on the horizontal branch of a conifer. It lays 4 or 5 pale bluish-green eggs, spotted and scrawled with brown and black, which are incubated by the female for 12-14 days; the young birds leave the nest to start fending for themselves some 2 weeks after hatching. The adult is a stocky bird with a short, notched tail and a stout bill. The male is mostly dusky rosy-red, with brown streaks on the back, a white belly and brown wings and tail. The female is streaked brown above, and white heavily streaked with brown beneath, with bold brown and white stripes on the head, a broad white eyebrow, and a brown cheek with a white mustache mark. The juvenile is like the female. The Purple Finch eats seeds, fruits and also insects.



HOUSE FINCH

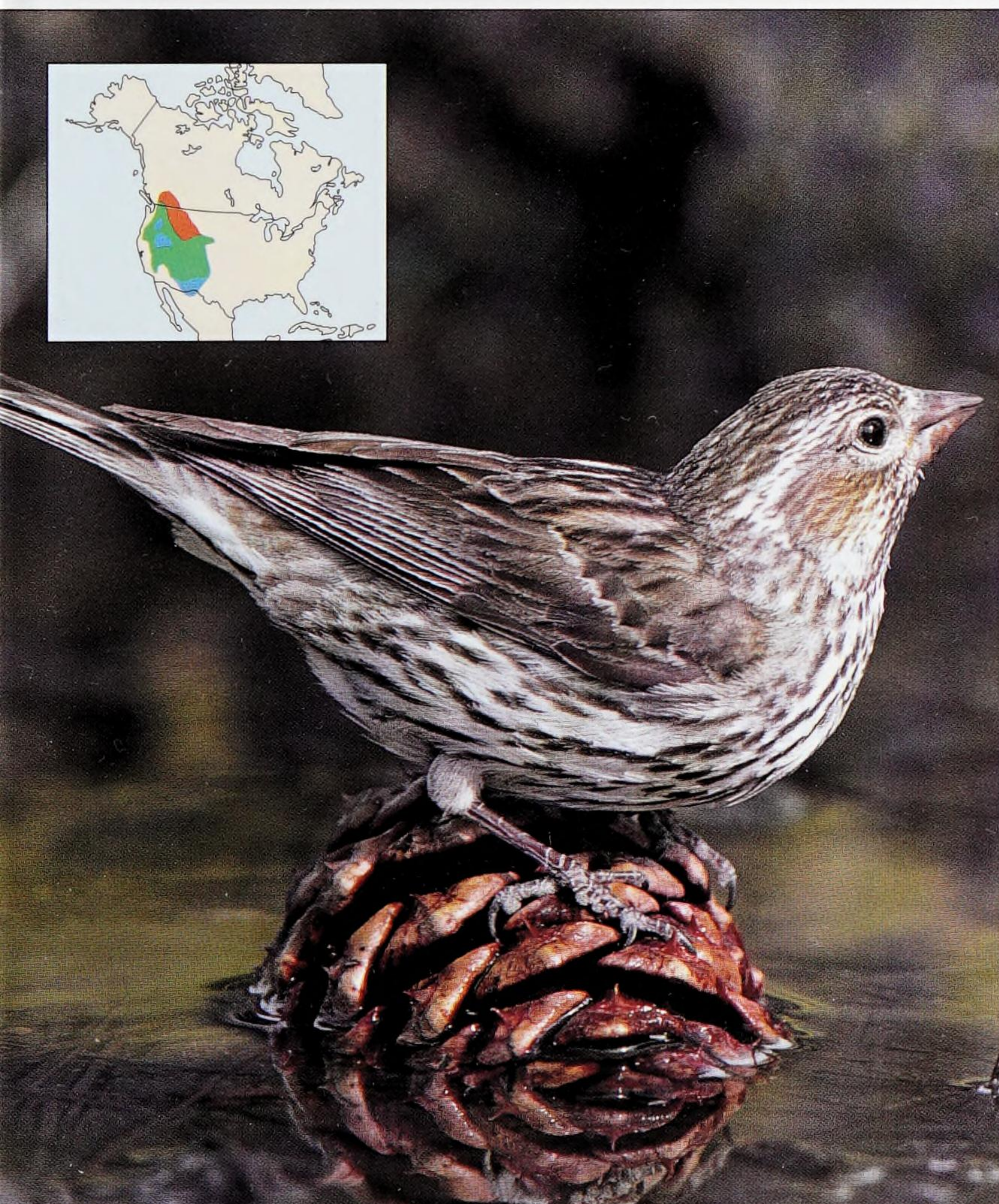
- Scientific name:** *Carpodacus mexicanus*
Length: 6 inches
Habitat: Open woods, deserts, canyons, backyards, cities
Identification: Stocky open-country bird with long, slightly notched tail and short, stout bill. Male has red or orange-yellow eyebrow, forehead, breast and rump, brown cap, brown streaked back, white belly with dark streaks on sides, brown wings and tail. Female streaked gray-brown above, buffy with blurred brown streaks beneath, indistinct patterning on head
Similar species: Male browner with longer tail than Purple or Cassin's finch, and shorter, more rounded wings. Female plainer than Cassin's or Purple finch

Common and abundant over most of North America, the House Finch lives in a wide variety of habitats up to elevations of about 6000 feet. Native to the west, it was introduced around New York in 1940 and has now also spread across the east. It breeds almost anywhere, building a neat, compact nest of grass, stems and leaves high above the ground in a tree, bush or on a building, in which it lays 3-5 bluish eggs. The adult is a stocky bird with a long, slightly notched tail and a short, stout bill. The male has a red or orange-yellow eyebrow, forehead, breast and rump, a brown cap, brown streaked back, a white belly with dark streaks on the sides, and brown wings and tail. The female is streaked gray-brown above, buffy with blurred brown streaks beneath, and has indistinct patterning on the head. The House Finch is a social bird and often forages in flocks; it eats almost anything, including seeds, buds, fruits and insects.



CASSIN'S FINCH

- Scientific name:** *Carpodacus cassinii*
Length: 6½ inches
Habitat: High mountain forests, evergreen woods
Identification: Stocky woodland bird with short, notched tail and stout bill. Male has bright red crown and breast, brown streaked back washed pink, white belly, brown wings and tail. Female streaked gray-brown above, white finely streaked brown beneath, brown and white stripes on head, pale eye ring, brown cheek with faint white mustache mark
Similar species: Male larger than Purple or House finch, red on head brighter, otherwise rather paler. Female has lighter streaking on breast than female Purple but it extends under tail, head markings less distinct. Female House Finch has plainer head



Cassin's Finch is quite common in conifer woods in the mountain areas of the west - although it sometimes ranges further north in summer and in winter may stray down into Mexico. It builds a neat cup of twigs and rootlets lined with grass and horsehair, up to 50 feet above the ground on the horizontal branch of a conifer, in which it lays 4 or 5 pale bluish-green eggs, spotted with dark brown. The adult is stocky with a short, notched tail and a stout bill. The male has a bright red crown and breast, a brown streaked back washed with pink, a white belly, and brown wings and tail. The female is streaked gray-brown above, white finely streaked with brown beneath, with brown and white stripes on the head, a pale eye ring, and a brown cheek with a faint white mustache mark. Cassin's Finch eats seeds, buds, fruits and also insects.



PINE SISKIN

Scientific name:	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>
Length:	5 inches
Habitat:	Open coniferous and mixed woods, fields
Identification:	Small woodland bird with short forked tail, long pointed wings and slender bill. Brown-gray above, buffy beneath, finely streaked overall, in flight shows yellow bars across wings and yellow tail with black tip. Female has slightly less yellow
Similar species:	Goldfinches have more yellow, sparrows lack yellow and have thicker bill

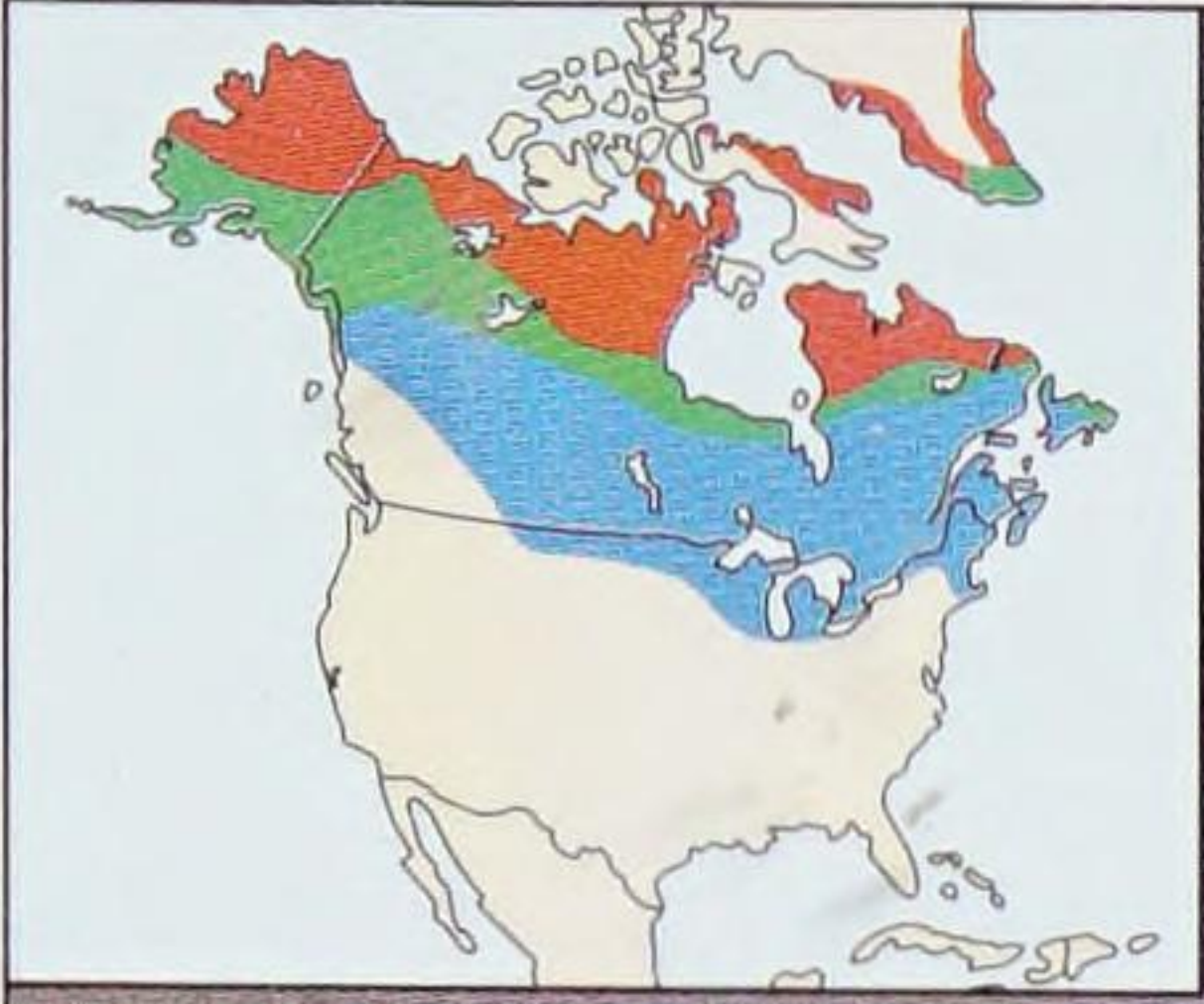
Found in open coniferous forests, the Pine Siskin is fairly common across much of its range and is often seen in large flocks with goldfinches during the winter. It breeds in the north in loose colonies, building a large nest of twigs and rootlets lined with grass, usually 10-20 feet above the ground on the horizontal branch of a conifer. It lays 3-6 pale blue eggs, spotted with lilac-black, which are incubated by the female alone for just under 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest just over 2 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a small bird with a short forked tail, long pointed wings and a slender bill. It is brown-gray above and buffy beneath, finely streaked overall, and in flight it shows yellow bars across the wings and a yellow tail with a black tip. The female has slightly less yellow. The Pine Siskin feeds in flocks, often hanging upside down to reach the seeds in hanging catkins and pods. It also eats insects and will visit bird feeders in winter.

HOARY REDPOLL

Scientific name:	<i>Carduelis hornemanni</i>
Length:	5½ inches
Habitat:	Open ground above Arctic tree line
Identification:	Small open-country bird with long, slightly notched tail and small yellow bill. Light gray-brown above with pale brown streaks, white rump, black chin, red cap, dark wings with white wing bars. Male has pink breast, female white. Juvenile lacks red and is streaked beneath
Similar species:	Common Redpoll is darker, but females can be difficult to tell apart

The Hoary Redpoll generally lives further north than the Common and rarely comes very far south in winter. Although their ranges overlap, they do not interbreed. The Hoary Redpoll builds a nest of grass and fine rootlets lined with feathers on the ground or very low down in a tree or bush, in which it lays 3-6 pale green eggs, lightly speckled with brown. These are incubated by the female for about 10-12 days; the young birds leave the nest some 9-15 days after hatching. The adult is a small bird with a long, slightly notched tail and a small yellow bill. It is light gray-brown above with pale brown streaks, and has a white rump, a black chin and red cap, and dark wings with white wing bars. The male has a pink-washed breast, the breast of the female is white. The juvenile lacks any red and is streaked beneath. The Hoary Redpoll is a gregarious bird and is sometimes seen in flocks with the Common Redpoll. It eats the seeds of trees and also insects.



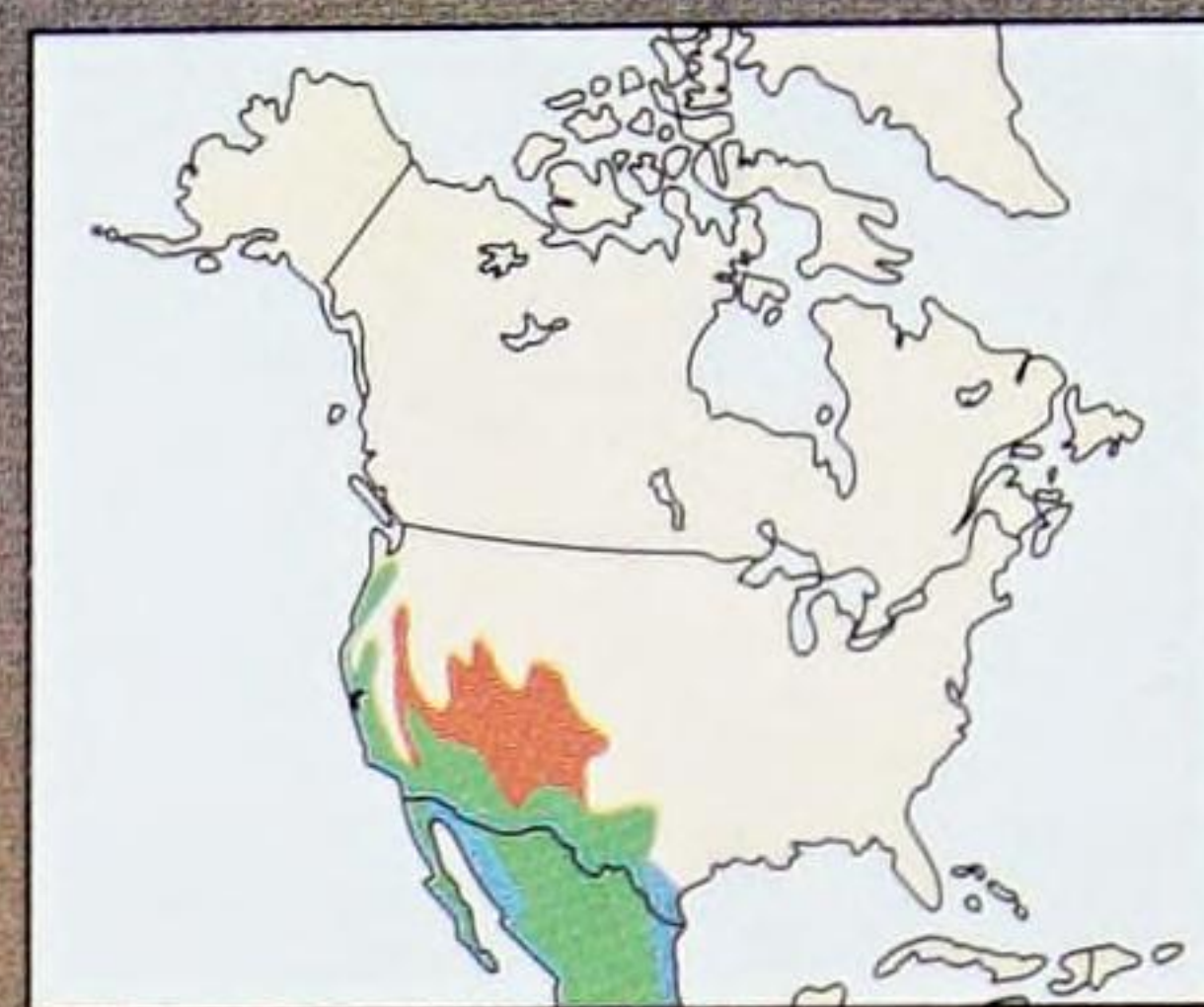


COMMON REDPOLL

Scientific name:	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
Length:	5¼ inches
Habitat:	Subarctic forests, tundra, birch and willow scrub
Identification:	Small open-country bird with long, slightly notched tail and small yellow bill. Gray-brown above with brown streaks above and below, black chin, bright red forehead, dark wings with white wing bars. Male has deep pink breast, female white or buffy. Juvenile lacks red and is heavily streaked beneath
Similar species:	Hoary Redpoll is paler, but females can be difficult to tell apart

An Arctic bird, the Common Redpoll often sleeps in tunnels in the snow to keep warm during the long northern nights and only

comes further south during the winter. It breeds on Arctic tundra, building a nest of grass and rootlets lined with feathers on the bare ground or low in a tree or shrub, in which it lays 3-6 pale blue-green eggs, lightly spotted with brown. These are incubated by the female for about 2 weeks; the young birds leave the nest some 12-15 days after hatching. The adult is a rather small, plump bird with a long and slightly notched tail and a small yellow bill. It is gray-brown above with brown streaks above and below, a black chin, a bright red forehead, and dark wings with white wing bars. The male (*above*) has a deep pink breast, the breast of the female is white or buffy. The juvenile lacks any red and is heavily streaked beneath. The Common Redpoll is an extremely social and a very active bird and is usually seen in large flocks; if one takes flight, the rest will immediately follow. It eats the seeds of trees such as birch, alder and willow and also insects. It will often visit feeders in winter and can appear very tame.



LESSER GOLDFINCH

Scientific name: *Carduelis psaltria*

Length: 4½ inches

Habitat: Dry brushy fields, woodland edges, streamsides

Identification: Small, stocky open-country bird with short forked tail, short rounded wings and large bill. Male has black crown, white patches on black wing and tail, bright yellow underparts, back either black or green. Female and juvenile olive above, duller yellow beneath, lack black cap

Similar species: Male distinctive. Female American Goldfinch has white undertail coverts

Common in dry and brushy habitats and along the edge of woodland, the Lesser Goldfinch is also often seen in backyards across its range. It sings almost constantly, and in the Old World its relatives were kept as caged birds. It nests in a bush or low tree, building a cup of fine twigs and plant fibers lined with grass and plant down, usually around 20 feet above the ground. It lays 4 or 5 plain pale blue eggs, which are incubated by the female alone for around 11-14 days. The adult is a small, stocky bird with a short forked tail, short, rounded wings and a relatively large bill. The male has a black crown, white patches on black wings and tail, and bright yellow underparts. The color of the back varies from black in eastern birds to green in the west. The female and juvenile are olive above and a duller yellow beneath, and they lack the black cap. The Lesser Goldfinch mainly eats seeds and is particularly fond of dandelion seeds.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

Scientific name: *Carduelis tristis*

Length: 5 inches

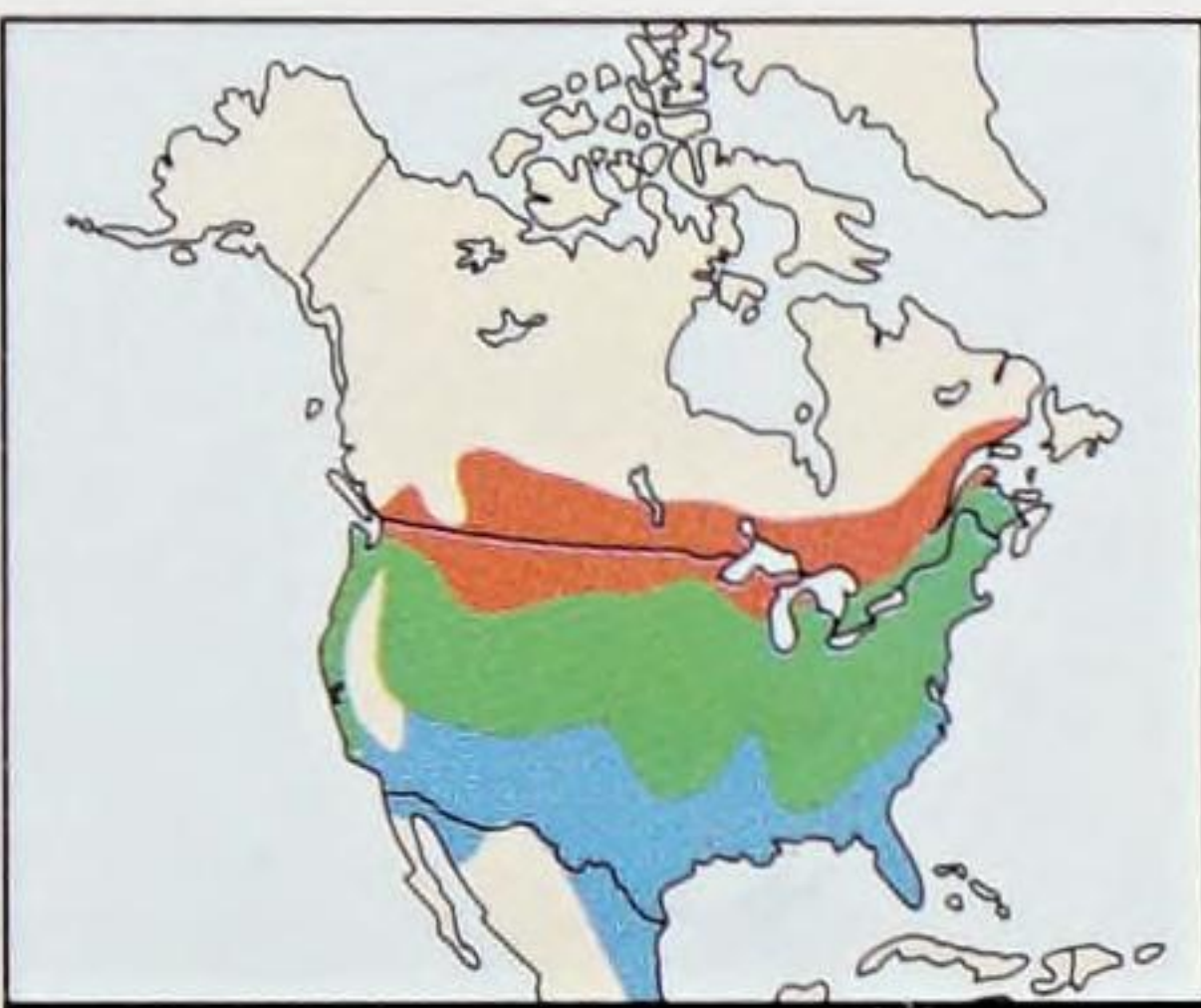
Habitat: Weedy fields, open second-growth woods, suburbs

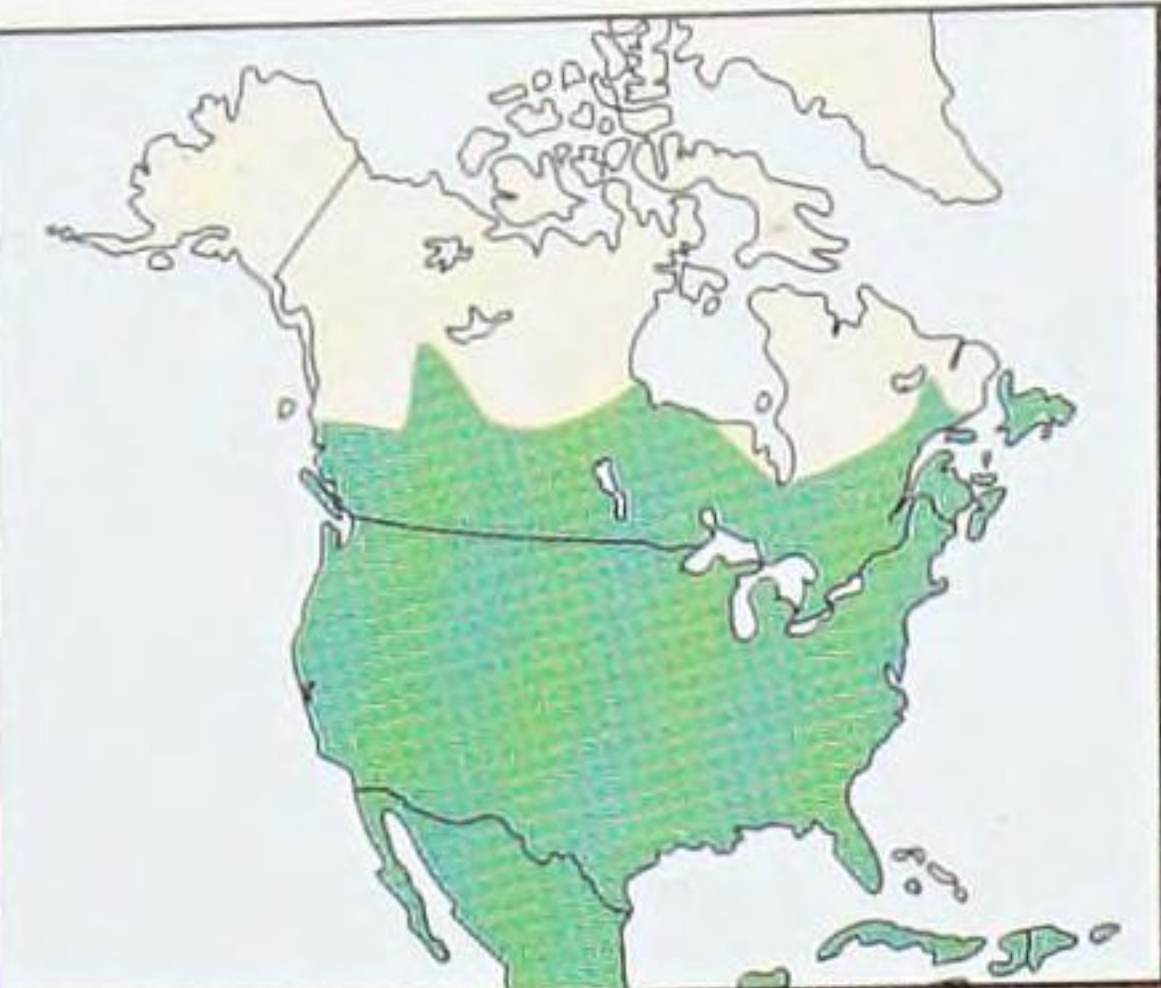
Identification: Small, stocky open-country bird with short forked tail, short rounded wings and large bill. Breeding male bright yellow with black cap, white rump and undertail coverts, yellow shoulder, white bars on black wings, white edges to black upper tail feathers. Female and winter birds dull olive above, yellow below, white undertail coverts, lack black cap. Juveniles mainly pale tan

Similar species: Breeding male distinctive. Female Lesser Goldfinch lacks white undertail coverts

often forages in mixed flocks with other species. It breeds within the central and northern areas of its range, building a small, tightly-woven cup of grass and plant fibers lined with plant down, usually high above the ground in a bush or tree. It lays 3-6 plain blue-white eggs, which are incubated by the female alone for around 2 weeks; the young leave the nest to start fending for themselves around 12-17 days after they have hatched. The adult is a small, stocky bird with a short, forked tail, short, rounded wings and a relatively large bill. The breeding male (below) is bright yellow with a black cap, a white rump and undertail coverts, a yellow shoulder, white bars on black wings, and white edges to black upper tail feathers. The female and winter birds are a dull olive above and yellow below, with white undertail coverts, and no black cap. The juvenile bird is brownish overall, with dark wings and tail. The American Goldfinch mainly eats seeds - especially thistle seeds - but it will also take small insects and berries. The nestlings are fed on seeds that have been shelled and partly predigested by the parent birds.

The American Goldfinch is fairly common across most of North America, except in the far north. It is a very gregarious bird, and







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HOUSE SPARROW (opposite)

- Scientific name:** *Passer domesticus*
Length: 6¼ inches
Habitat: Urban areas
Identification: Plump, short-tailed open-country bird, with short wings and stout bill. Breeding male has gray crown, brown and black striping on wings and back, chestnut nape, white face, large black bib. Chestnut and black markings concealed with grayish feathers in winter. Female streaked brown-gray above, buffy eyebrow, plain buffy-gray beneath
Similar species: Native sparrows have longer legs, thinner bills

An Old World species, the House Sparrow was first introduced in Central Park, New York City, in 1850 and has spread and adapted so it is now found across most of North America. It is often considered to be a pest as it sometimes drives out native birds, but it also thrives in urban environments, where few other birds care to live. It nests in a cavity in a tree, building, lamp post or similar place, lining the hole with an untidy mass of straw and grass and laying 5 or 6 pale greenish-white eggs, speckled with brown. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks by the female bird alone and the young birds leave the nest to make way for a second brood around 2-3 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a plump, short-tailed bird, with short wings and a stout, blunt bill. The breeding male has a gray crown, brown and black striping on the wings and back, a chestnut nape, white face, and a large black bib. The chestnut and black markings are concealed under grayish feathers in winter, which gradually wear off to reveal the breeding plumage. The female is streaked brown-gray above and plain buffy-gray beneath, with a buffy eyebrow. The House Sparrow gathers in noisy flocks and eats a wide variety of things, including insects, spiders, caterpillars, seeds, berries, grain and bread crumbs.

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (above)

- Scientific name:** *Passer montanus*
Length: 6 inches
Habitat: Parks, suburbs, farmland
Identification: Plump, short-tailed open-country bird, with short wings and small bill. Rufous crown, white collar, brown and black striping on wings and back, black ear patch on white face, small black bib. Juvenile streaked brown-gray above, dark spot on whitish cheek, plain buffy-gray beneath
Similar species: House Sparrow has gray crown and larger black bib. Native sparrows have longer legs, thinner bills

An Old World species, the Eurasian Tree Sparrow was first introduced in St Louis in 1870 and has spread into parks and farmlands in the region and into western Illinois and southeastern Iowa. It avoids urban environments, but does live in the suburbs. It nests in a sheltered cavity in a tree, building or cliff, lining the hole with feathers and grass and laying 2-6 pale gray-white eggs, speckled with brown. These are incubated for up to 2 weeks by both adults and the young birds leave the nest around 2 weeks after they have hatched. The adult is a plump, short-tailed bird, with short wings and a small bill. It has a rufous crown, white collar, brown and black striping on the wings and back, a black ear patch on a white face, and a small black bib. The juvenile is streaked brown-gray above, plain buffy-gray beneath, with a mottled crown, a gray throat and a gray ear spot on a whitish cheek. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow gathers in small flocks and eats insects, seeds, berries, grain and bread crumbs.

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Front jacket Bald Eagle - Lon E Lauber and back jacket Dicksell - Richard Day

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THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

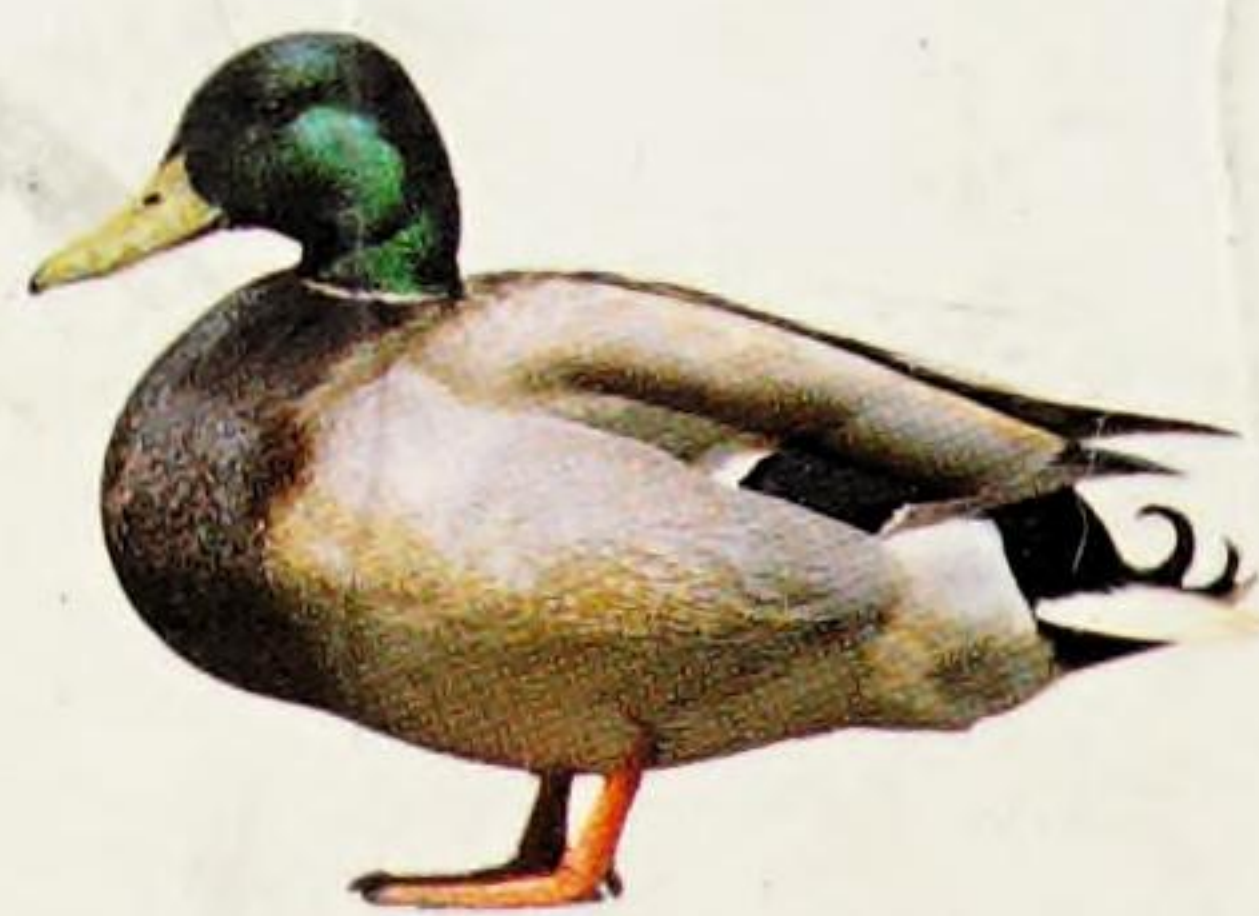
Michael Vanner is an enthusiastic birder who has spent many years studying the wild life of Northern America. He currently lives in the South of France.

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